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McCallum

FBI special agent allegedly assaults US govt prosecutor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General

is conducting an investigation into allegations that a special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has assaulted a U.S. government pro-

secutor last week.

Sources disclosed that the OAG has been investigating allegations that FBI special agent Sharon Hu-

ber assaulted Assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum last Thursday, April 21, in her office.

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ON PENDING IMMIGRATION BILL

Fitial, Kilili say 'good luck' to each other

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has strong words against Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's bill proposing a "CNMI-only resident status" for four groups of people including those who have U.S. citizen children or spouses, but the delegate said the governor's statements are not surprising.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan gestures as he addresses members of the community at a townhall meeting Wednesday night at the American Memorial Park Visitors' Center in Garapan wherein the discussions, among other things, touched on his pending bill proposing a "CNMI-only resident status" for four groups of people including those who have U.S. citizen children or spouses as of May 8, 2008, but Gov. Benigno R. Fitial thinks the measure will not pass the U.S. Congress.

Federal court remands to Superior Court lawsuit over Marpi poles

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday granted the Friends of Marpi's emergency motion to remand to the Superior Court their lawsuit against the CNMI government over the installation of power poles in Marpi.

As this developed, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands yesterday requested the government to reevaluate the instal-

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RELATED NEWS

Groups join campaign vs Marpi poles. **PAGE 32**

Gas prices up by 10 cents, again

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Barely a week after a 10-cent hike, Saipan's gas prices went up again by 10 cents a gallon at 10am yesterday at Mobil Oil Marianas service stations.

Pump prices at Mobil stations are now \$4.759 a gallon for regular unleaded gasoline, \$5.079 a gallon for super unleaded gasoline, and \$5.219

See **GAS** on **Page 4**

A price display at a Mobil service station on Beach Road in Garapan shows the latest gas prices on Saipan following yesterday's 10-cent a gallon increase, barely a week after another 10-cent hike.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO





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LOLLIPOPS

Fitial: Suspension of ETC during austerity a good idea

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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 REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the idea of suspending the educational tax credit program during periods of austerity "is a good idea."

But Fitial said he has yet to read the bill suspending the ETC program so he could not say with certainty whether he will sign the measure or not.

"I will review it (bill), of course. I think it's a good idea to suspend it during austerity and then when we lift the austerity, then the suspension should also be lifted," he said.

Senate Bill 17-68, which suspends the ETC program, is now headed to the governor after the House passed it without amendment on Wednesday amid strong opposition from public and private schools, educators, parents and students, as well as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. It passed the Senate on an 11-7 vote with one abstention and one absence.

When Senate Bill 17-68 was discussed and passed the Senate by a vote of 7-0 with two abstentions during a night session, there was no public opposition to the bill.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), one of the House members who voted against SB 17-68, said yesterday that the estimated

savings of \$2 million which will go directly to the general fund is nothing compared to the estimated loss of \$5 million or more in losses when the ETC program is suspended.

The Senate, where the bill originated from, said only some 10 percent of total ETCs go to public schools while the rest, to private schools.

The Senate said it would be better to directly fund the Public School System rather than giving ETCs during periods of government austerity. The bill's findings also said during difficult economic times, the government cannot afford a tax credit that diminishes the overall money received in tax revenues.

IN TRIAL OF SUSPECTED BIG-TIME 'ICE' DEALER

Prosecution, defense counsel rest case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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 REPORTER

The prosecution and the defense counsel yesterday rested their case in the ongoing jury trial in Superior Court of suspected big-time "ice" supplier Qun Yun.

This developed as the prosecution's last witness—Guam Police Department Forensic Science Division Crime Lab's criminalist Analyn Gatus—testified that her analysis on a set of substance indicated that 1.1885 grams contained methamphetamine hydrochloride or "ice" while the other set of brown colored substance actually contained sugar.

After Gatus' testimony, assistant attorney generals Russell Lorring and Tiberius Mo-

canu informed Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman, who presided over the trial, that the government is resting its case.

Attorney Stephen Woodruff, counsel for Yun, moved for judgment of acquittal, but Wiseman denied the motion. The defense did not call any witness.

The prosecutors and the defense counsel are expected to commence their closing arguments today, Friday, at 9:30am.

After Yu reportedly eluded authorities during a high speed car chase in the afternoon of Aug. 4, 2010. Shortly after the chase, members of the CNMI Drug Task Force and police officers searched the defendant's residence in Gualo Raid and re-

See PROSECUTION on Page 4



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MCS' Balajadia is 2011 AG's Cup champion

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Mount Carmel School once again successfully defended its title at the 27th Annual Attorney Generals' Cup when Maria S. Balajadia was hailed champion

in the intense competition held yesterday at the Guma Hustisia.

It was the school's 13th overall championship in the prestigious competition that started in 1984. Mount Carmel School has now ruled the event for nine consecutive years from 2002 to 2011.

Balajadia, daughter of Victor and Elizabeth Balajadia, bested seven other contenders from various public and private high schools in the Commonwealth. She credited her performance to the hardworking team behind her.

"I feel really honored because today I competed against really talented people. They presented their side very well and I know that they did a lot of research and work," the 17-year-old senior said.

Balajadia was coached by Galvin Deleon Guerrero, the man behind the many successes of Mount Carmel School at the AG's Cup.

He has been coaching the school's AG's Cup team since 1998 and has been the winning

coach for the past nine years.

"The secret of our success? Team work, team work, team work. Twenty brains are better than one," he added.

This year's resolve was: should the CNMI consider becoming an independent country or remain a commonwealth of the United States?

Balajadia received the approving nod of judges and spectators when she effectively conveyed the severe impact of such a decision and favored to retain the Commonwealth agreement.

"We may be a chain of islands, but our world is too interconnected for us to remain so insular," she said, adding that a financial crisis, anti-government protests, and terrorist attacks thousands of miles away all af-

fect 14 small islands just west of the Marianas Trench.

"So, when we consider today's question, amidst all the connections that link continents, nations, and people, rather than declaring our independence, perhaps we should declare our interdependence. This is why I believe we should remain a Commonwealth. Doing so will allow us to cultivate our interdependence with the United States and the rest of the world in a way that will secure a better future for our islands and for our people," she said.

Hailed second place winner in yesterday's speech competition was Crista Ching of Saipan Southern High School, while Kagman High School's Angela Prado and Calvary Christian Academy's Hiromasa Kawahara emerged third and fourth placers, respectively.

Runners-up in the competition included Marianas Baptist Academy's Manatsu Omori, Rota High School's Baybie Hocog, Tinian High School's Shitong Cheng, and Marianas High School's Brandon Camacho.

Each participant was awarded certificate of appreciation and gift items and were recognized with their parents and coaches.

Among the event's main speakers were Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Attorney General Edward Buckingham, and Rita Chong-Dela Cruz, who was the AG's Cup winner in 1986.

The competition's panel of judges included the following lawyers and judges: Buckingham, Matthew Gregory, Pamela Brown, Herbert Soll, Robert Naraja, Edward Manibusan, Rexford Kosack, and Alejandro Castro.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Attorney Generals' Cup 2011 champion Maria Balajadia poses with the prestigious perpetual AG's Cup along with Mount Carmel School coach Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

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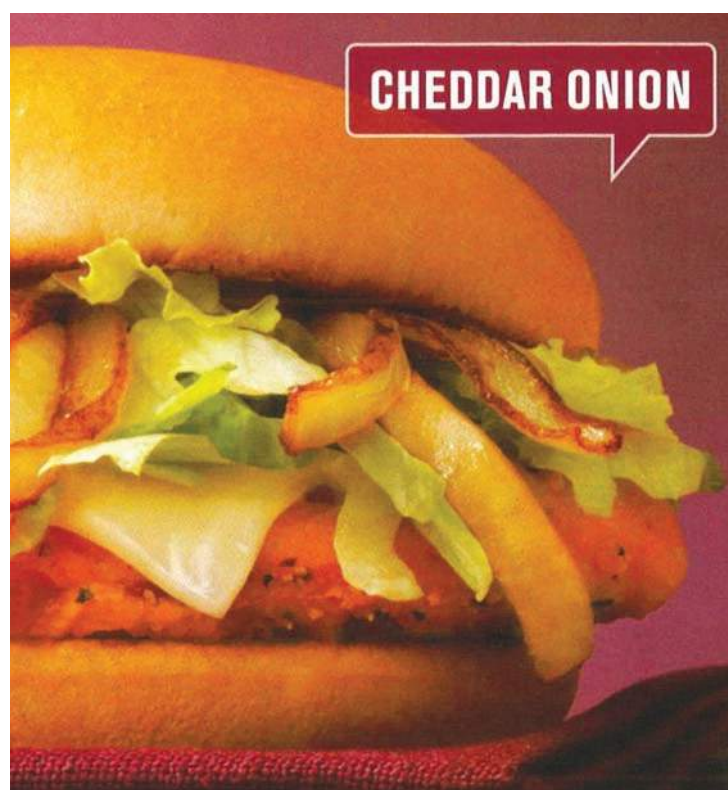
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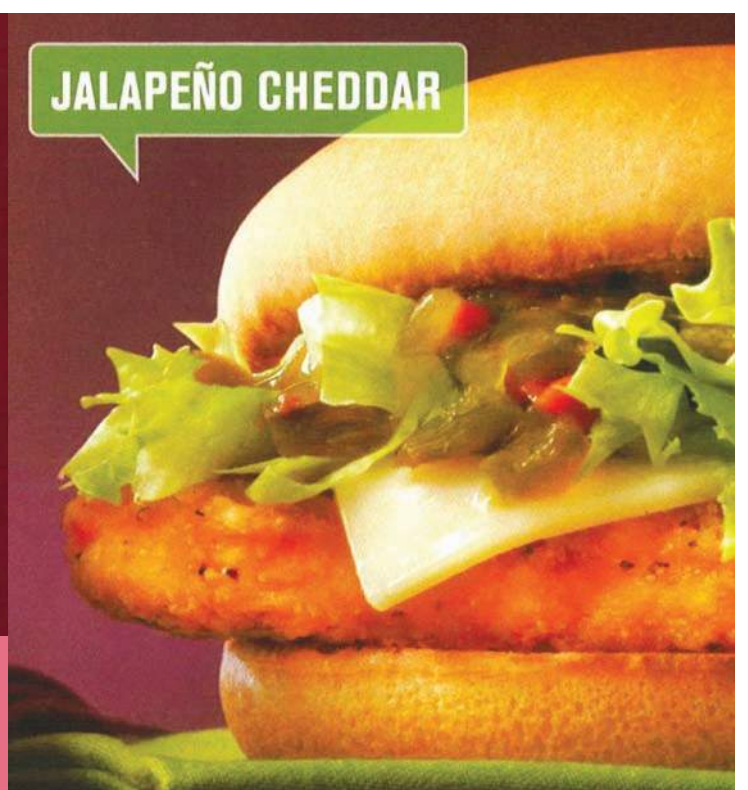
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'CNMI deprived of \$297M in Covenant funding for 17 years'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R Fitial said the CNMI has been "deprived" of \$297 million in Covenant Section 702 funding over the last 17 years, and asked Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan to consider and support the reestablishment of these funds.

Fitial said yesterday that he asked Sablan as early as Feb. 24, through a letter, about the matter but he said he has yet to hear from the delegate.

Sablan, in a separate interview, said the governor should write a letter to the governors of Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and ask them if they can give up their share of the federal funds originally set aside for the CNMI at \$27.2 million annually.

The delegate said he and Lt. Gov.

Eloy S. Inos have been working together to address some of the issues in Fitial's letter.

He said the governor has not met with him, but the governor said his office is always open to Sablan. The delegate himself said his office is open to the governor.

The CNMI was initially receiving \$27.2 million annually from the U.S. in order to improve the islands' infrastructure.

Portions of that initial annual funding of \$27.2 million that should have been given fully to the CNMI have since been also distributed to Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For fiscal year 2012, the CNMI's Section 702 or the capital improvement project funding level has been reduced to \$9.5 million.

FEDERAL

From Page 1

lation of power poles in Marpi, which according to the association "have negatively impacted the natural beauty and peace of one of the most popular tourist areas on island."

HANMI, through its board chair Nick Nishikawa five other board members, wrote a letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, the Legislature, and Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham, asking for public hearings on the project.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood said it is "in the interests of judicial economy, convenience, comity, and fairness to remand the remaining claims" to the Superior Court.

In granting the emergency motion, Tydingco-Gatewood said the balance of factors clearly tips in favor of remanding this case to the Superior Court.

Tydingco-Gatwood said although discovery has not yet begun, the Superior Court already has some familiarity with the case, as it has issued a temporary restraining order (and is, or was, supposed to hear plaintiffs' motion of a preliminary injunction [today, Friday]).

On April 19, 2011, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo granted Friends of Marpi's motion for a TRO to momentarily stop the CNMI government from installing more poles in Marpi until an evidentiary hearing is conducted today, Friday.

On Tuesday, the Office of the Attorney General, as counsel for the CNMI government and co-defendants in the

case, filed a notice of removal of the lawsuit from the Superior Court.

On Wednesday, the Friends of Marpi filed their amended complaint in federal court. The amended complaint presents no federal question and shows no diversity of citizenship.

After three hours, the Friends of Marpi, through counsel David Banes, filed the emergency motion that seeks to remand the lawsuit to the Superior Court.

The OAG has not had time to respond to the motion. But the federal court said under the circumstances, there is no need for the defendants' response to the emergency motion.

In the motion, the plaintiffs asked the court to remand the lawsuit to the Superior Court because the amended complaint no longer has a Section 1983 claim, and so no longer presents a federal question.

Judge Tydingco-Gatewood noted in her ruling that the timing of events in this case gives her the distinct impression that the defendants have engaged in "forum manipulation."

"Knowing of plaintiffs' immediate plan to file an amended complaint in the Superior Court, defendants seem to have timed their removal so as to cause the TRO to lapse without any possibility of its conversion to a preliminary injunction," the judge said.

This action, she said, would empower defendants to moot the entire case—explaining their refusal to agree to a continuance of the TRO.

"And this may not prove bad faith, but it does suggest it," Tydingco-Gatewood said.

so he gave him water.

Mendiola said he and two other police officers responded to a call from a concerned citizen that an unidentified man was seen near the former Radar Station who appeared disoriented and dehydrated.

The officer said he noted scratch marks on the man's face and arms.

The veteran officer said he remembered about a wanted Chinese man who eluded the Drug Task Force during a car chase so he looked at his cellphone that contained the photo of the wanted Yun.

Mendiola said he noticed that the man looked the same in the photo so he showed it to the two other officers, who agreed with him.

Mendiola said they contacted the detectives and Yun was arrested.

"Due to the reductions in Section 702 funding that have occurred over the last 17 years, the Commonwealth has been deprived of \$297 million in funding which could have been used to meet infrastructure needs," Fitial said.

The governor added that although the U.S. is now dictating the priorities, use and standards to be met in utility operations, it is simultaneously reducing the annual funding provided under Section 702.

He said it is inappropriate and con-

flicting with the language of the Covenant to reduce the annual funding to the CNMI as a result of conflict of programs requiring that all costs for meeting standards that the U.S. requires "will be forced onto the people of the Commonwealth."

"In order to correct this conflict, we seek restoration of Section 702 funding levels to reflect the intent of the Covenant and at the original level of \$27.2 million," Fitial added.

In that same letter, Fitial also request-

buy a new car. Now gas prices keep on going up. I might just begin walking to and from work because gas prices are too much," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Diego Camacho, an employee at the Public School System, said the latest 10-cent price increase only a week after the last one is "ridiculous."

"We're just going to cut other personal expenses. Now I have to plan my routes so there's no need to go back and forth and waste gas. Some people I know still earn \$4.55 an hour because they're exempt from the minimum wage law. So a gallon of gas is higher than their hourly salary," he said.

Camacho, a supplies officer at PSS' Head Start Program, was trying to fill with gasoline a PSS van yesterday at Mobil.

The full tank amounted to \$139, which was equivalent to 29.209 gallons. Camacho said this could last for only a week or less, depending on the usage.

Peter Babauta, a PSS Head Start family advocate, said the steadily climbing gas prices and limited budget for fuel are now hurting the Head Start program.

ed Sablan's consideration and support for funding of a training program to aid in the transition of CNMI employees to the private sector, and reprogramming of Covenant 702 funds to address long-term and short-term financial issues.

The CNMI House of Representatives and Senate also passed a joint resolution in February urging Fitial to work with Sablan to request the U.S. Congress to permit a temporary exemption from disallowing CIP funds to be used for operations.

"This vehicle is used for house-to-house visits for the Head Start program, and because we have limited budget and we could only buy fewer fuel with the money we have, we couldn't make all the house visits we used to have," said Babauta, who was accompanying Camacho at the Mobil station.

Babauta, a father of seven, said the high gas prices are also affecting his family. One of his children, for example, now has to take the PSS bus to go to and from school. His other children will have to wait for him at his mother's house to be picked up before they could all go home all because they try to limit the use of the family vehicle.

"My family and I also used to go to Santa Lourdes and San Roque to light candles every Sunday but for two weeks now, we were not able to go because of the gas prices," he said.

The government is not insulated from the increasing gas prices.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said just like any other consumer, "the government is not in a position to increase any allowances for gas."

GAS

From Page 1

a gallon for diesel gasoline as the unrest in the Middle East and North Africa continue.

As of early last night, Shell Marianas service stations remained the same.

But Mobil and Shell mirror each other's prices, so motorists expect that Shell will also increase its prices if not today then in the next few days.

The prices of super unleaded gasoline and diesel gasoline have already breached the psychologically important threshold of \$5 a gallon, and are now higher than the CNMI's minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour.

Lina Camacho, a Garapan resident, was surprised to see that gas prices went up again by 10 cents while she was trying to put \$5 worth of gasoline into her sedan at the Mobil-Garapan Beach Road station yesterday, only a week after the last price change.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notices of price increases.

"It's bad enough we can't afford to

GOOD LUCK

From Page 1

Among other things, Fitial said the U.S. Congress will not pass Sablan's H.R. 1466.

Fitial said he wishes Sablan "good luck" on his H.R. 1466 which he said he would want amended, while Sablan also wished Fitial "good luck" in amending his bill.

"That bill will never fly, or will never be considered by the U.S. Congress. The U.S. Congress is not stupid to enact a new law when they already have an existing law that would address those issues," Fitial told reporters in an interview at his newly renovated office on Capital Hill.

But the governor also said he will offer an amendment to the bill, specifically removing the retroactive date of May 8, 2008 in connection with the fourth group of people covered in Sablan's bill.

This fourth group is the immediate relatives—such as parents of U.S. citizens regardless of the age of the U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008—and who have been in the CNMI until the bill's enactment into law.

"In other words, it will be prospec-

tive, not retroactive," he said.

Initially, Fitial said his amendment is "only to chastise the author" of the bill, which turned out to be a joke. He then proceeded to his proposed amendment.

"My amendment is to make sure that that act, if it is ever enacted, will be effective on the date it is enacted. In other words, anybody before that date is not entitled to (the proposed status)," Fitial said.

The amendment could also be the deletion of the paragraph referring to the fourth group of individuals, he said.

Sablan said U.S. Public Law 110-229 which placed CNMI immigration under federal control does not recognize three groups of people which he is trying to help with this bill, along with the fourth group which has been the most controversial provision in the bill. The first three groups are CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978, and immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)), of an alien described in subclauses (I) or (II).

At a townhall meeting Wednesday night at the American Memorial Park visitors' center, Sablan said immigration is a toxic issue in Washington,

privately confidential and no further comment is appropriate at this time," Buckingham said.

When asked about the alleged incident, McCallum referred *Saipan Tribune* to Salome Blas, the public information officer for the U.S. Attorney's Office Districts of Guam and the NMI.

"As of today, right now, my hands are tied. I can't make a comment," McCallum said.

Blas told *Saipan Tribune* last night

D.C. just like budget and deficit, but he said he won't give up in pushing for the protection of families in the CNMI who may be separated just because the federalization law does not recognize their presence in the CNMI.

The transitional worker regulations that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is expected to issue before No. 28, 2011 only covers nonresident workers.

Fitial said U.S. Congress will not pass Sablan's bill because even the immigration issues in Arizona and Florida, for example, have been met with roadblocks.

He said if these national issues don't fly, how much more the CNMI immigration issue.

Fitial also said there's some 5,000 who may be covered in the fourth group of people under Sablan's proposal.

"In other words, that bill is going to be crucified. Just look at the events on the plight of these illegal immigrants in the United States," the governor added.

Sablan's H.R. 1466 is now with the U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs. Sablan is now the ranking member of the committee, only on his second term in the U.S. Congress.

that the U.S. Attorney's Office has been and is in communication with the FBI and CNMI OAG.

"We have been informed an investigation is ongoing. We are unable to comment further," Blas said.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to contact Huber to get her side.

The Department of Public Safety's information office has yet to provide information or issue comment about the allegations.

PROSECUTION

From Page 2

ported they seized over 540 grams or half a kilo of "ice."

Police later found out that the 540 grams were actually sugar.

The items found as contained "ice" were the ones that the "cooperating defendant" allegedly purchased from Yu and Coco (Zhang Ling) on Aug. 3 and 4, 2010.

Yesterday, Police Officer 3 Juan T. Mendiola testified how he was able to discover that a man who was spotted in the afternoon of Aug. 25, 2010 in Marpi was actually the then wanted Yu.

Mendiola said Yu, whom he found walking toward the DPS firing range in San Juan, Marpi, seemed dehydrated

Fitial, Demapan, Cabrera jointly declare CNMI Law Day

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, and House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera jointly signed a proclamation declaring yesterday as CNMI Law Day.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona was supposed to be one of the signatories in the proclamation, but he failed to attend the ceremony.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the first Law Day as "a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law."

The proclamation states that every president since has taken the occasion of Law Day as an annual opportunity to proclaim the nation's ongoing commitment to the democratic rule of law.

Fitia, Demapan, and Cabrera called upon the people to acknowledge the importance of the nation's legal and

judicial systems with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and to display the flag of the U.S. in support of this national observance.

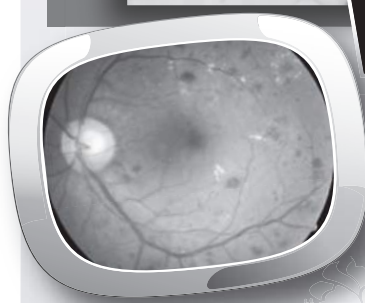
In his remarks at yesterday's 27th Attorney Generals' Cup held in the CNMI Supreme Court where the proclamation signing was also held, Fitia said by way of the Covenant, the CNMI became an established member of the American political family.

Fitia said that was 30 years ago, at a time when the "American Dream" was a much heralded revolution of golden hopes and limitless prosperity.

"But today, here we are, 30 years later, still battling many hurdles and barriers to lift our economy from the ruins of national policy and decisions often made tens of thousands of miles from the Commonwealth," the governor said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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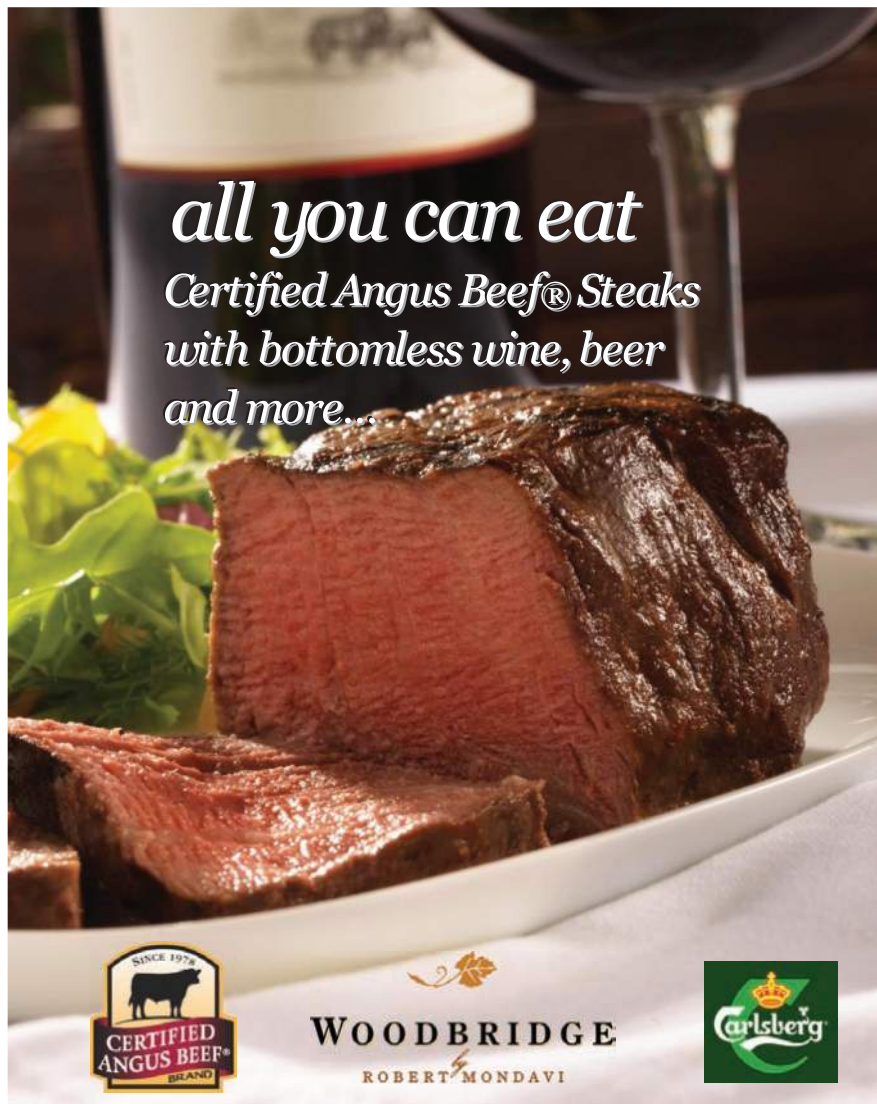
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CNMI PSS proclaims May as Chamorro, Carolinian Heritage Language Month

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education proclaimed May as the Public School System's Chamorro and Refaluwasch Language and Heritage Studies Month and called upon students, teachers, parents, and the community to celebrate and promote the language and culture of the two indigenous people on the islands.

The proclamation was the first-ever noted in public schools which encourages the greater participation of citizens in taking pro-active steps in the preservation of culture and heritage for the next generations.

The education board, in a ceremony Wednesday noon at its conference room, said both local language and cultures face huge challenges causing them to become endangered.

To ensure the survival of the distinct and unique cultural heritage, the board through PSS, implemented the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies program which provides every child from kindergarten to high school the opportunity to study, experience, and appreciate the culture of its two indigenous people—Chamorro and Refaluwasch.

"It is our responsibility as educators and leaders of this community to actively participate to help our students become competent and proficient Chamorro and Refaluwasch speakers, able to transit their knowledge from their native tongue into the English language without difficulties," the board said, adding that this will increase cognitive skills, better academic performance and a greater understanding of others while also providing life-long learning opportunities for people beyond school age.

According to Pat Kapileo, PSS CCLHS program coordinator, several activities are lined up in each school coinciding the celebration.

The occasion will also be highlighted by the traditional academic challenge competition among students in all levels. Cultural activities are also slated next month.

Last month, the board approved the increase of the CCLHS credit requirement from the current .05 credit to one credit in middle schools. This after data revealed that junior high school students failed to meet the benchmarks set by PSS on its curriculum last school year 2009-2010.

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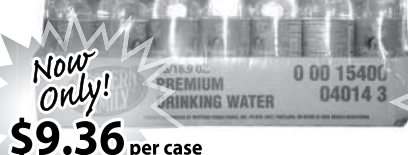
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Workers' comp stats drop

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of injuries and fatalities filed with the Workers Compensation Commission has significantly dropped, according to its director Frank D. Cabrera.

Cabrera, the only certified workers compensation professional in the CNMI, disclosed the latest statistics available during the general membership meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management yesterday at Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret.

For FY2009, a total of 317 claims on injuries and fatali-

ties for permanent residents and guest workers were filed with the commission.

Of this number, 96 were permanent residents in private sector, 44 were permanent residents in the government, and 177 were guest workers in the private sector. There were two recorded fatalities: one guest worker in the construction industry and one permanent resident in the "All Others" category.

The "All Others" category, Cabrera said, refers to job classifications like roadside vendors, fishermen, and those working in mom and pop stores.

In 2010, the total number of

claims was reduced to 313. Of this number, 94 were injuries for permanent residents in private sector, 19 for permanent residents in the government, and 219 were injuries and fatalities guest workers.

As of March 31, 2011, Cabrera said they have already recorded 171 claims: 46 are for permanent residents in the private sector, 14 in the government, and 111 for guest workers in the private sector.

Cabrera said the available data covers Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to Cabrera, the significant drop in the cases is

attributed mainly to the downfall of the garment industry in the CNMI.

He noted, however, that there are still employees working for these garment factories such as maintenance and resident agents who still work for said companies. "So injuries happen," said Cabrera.

Established on Oct. 25, 1989 under Public Law 6-33, the CNMI Workers' Compensation Program aims to provide cash benefits, medical care, and rehabilitative services to employees who suffer job-related injuries or deaths.

The program also protects the employers from the rising cost of damages by limiting the amount employees may recover for on the job injuries or deaths.

Cabrera said the cost of coverage for workers' compensation is solely the responsibility of the employer. "Not a single penny should be collected from the employee," he added.

At present, Cabrera said that the disability benefits for any work-related injuries are about 66 percent of the average weekly wages.

According to Cabrera, this equates to about \$140 a week or \$3.05 per hour.

"We're looking at enhancing the benefit to meet minimum wage standard," he said.

Cabrera said the commission will "start making changes on the average lost wages payable to the employee" once the economic recession turns around."

2nd EUDL conference set today

The 2nd Annual Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Youth Conference is slated for today, from 8am to 4pm at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

Vincent N. Camacho Jr., federal programs coordinator for Criminal Justice Planning Agency, said the conference is organized by the CNMI Juvenile Justice Task Force Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Program.

The conference culminates the celebration of the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Awareness Month.

According to Camacho, the conference is focused for high school students, which is why they invited all high schools on Saipan to send participants to the conference.

"The [task force] feels that this conference is very important because minors consuming alcohol is one of the highest offenses committed by juveniles and we need to bring awareness to this problem in our prevention efforts," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho added that the topics to be discussed on today's conference will focus on enforcement efforts and prevention strategies on the issue of underage drinking. (Clarissa V. David)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 29, 1999

Plan to apply federal procurement rules opposed

Finance officials are opposing a proposal from the Legislature requiring federal procurement regulations on local projects partly funded by Washington as they denied criticisms CNMI procurement process is so long and tedious that it risks losing the financial grants. Herman S. Sablan, director of the Procurement and Supply division of the Department of Finance, said the application of federal procurement laws to Commonwealth projects proposed under two pending measures is "unnecessary and impractical." Senate Bills 11-91 and 11-92 seek to substitute the current CNMI procurement rules and regulations with that of the US procurement regulations in cases where the majority of funds used for capital projects as well as architectural and engineering design come from the federal government.

NMHC cited anew for excellent housing program

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation has been selected to receive the 1999 Pacific Southwest Regional Council (PSWRC) Award of Merit from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). This is the second year in a row that NMHC got recognized for its exemplary project in providing quality housing programs. This year, its Home Loan Program is selected as the winner for the Regional Award of Merit. Presentation of the award will take place during a reception on May 16 at the Annual Spring Conference for NAHRO members in Palm Springs, California.

April 29, 2002

Babauta to press for extra \$5M for MVA

Gov. Juan N. Babauta vowed to facilitate the release of additional \$5 million for the Marianas Visitors Authority, in efforts to bolster the CNMI's marketing and advertising strategy abroad. In an interview, Babauta said he will press for the immediate release of the additional fund for the MVA to help the agency intensify its promotional activities. "I will push for the \$5 million to help MVA promote the Northern Marianas." Aside from the additional funding, Babauta and Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio also underscored the need to tap the assistance of U.S. embassies abroad in disseminating information about the Northern Marianas.

CUC seeks help to prevent groundwater contamination

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation said local and federal agencies should come out with a remediation plan to prevent the spread of groundwater contamination, as it disclosed that it had shut off several wells in the past. CUC Executive Director Bernard P. Villagomez said this in a letter to Public Health Medical Director Richard Brostrom, who had earlier asked the Division of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to further conduct sampling tests on Saipan's groundwater. "[The] CUC has several wells that were shut down due to detection of above maximum contamination levels of organic and semi-organic compounds," Villagomez said. The KV1 well was drilled in 1992, but it was never brought on line due to jet fuel contamination, the CUC said.

April 29, 2003

House takes a look-again-at IFP

The House of Representatives appears to be relenting in its position toward some of the proposed tax hikes that Gov. Juan N. Babauta had suggested to the Legislature. In the run-up to Babauta's State of the Commonwealth address tomorrow, House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider said yesterday that the lower chamber leadership is now reviewing all the proposed tax increases outlined in the Governor's proposed \$228 million budget for Fiscal Year 2004 to see how they can arrive at a common ground. He added that they are now finalizing the schedule for the public hearing that will be done concerning the budget proposal. "Overall, I think there are some good suggestions in the budget and there are, in fact, critical considerations being made by the leadership [yesterday] morning on the Governor's budget proposal, which proposes to increase certain taxes.

CNMI asserts right to submerged lands

Amid heightened use of the Northern Marianas by the U.S. military, the Commonwealth is opposing the federal government's claim over approximately 264,000 square miles of submerged lands on the islands, in a lawsuit pending at the U.S. District Court. Through Assistant Attorney General Joseph L.G. Tajeron Jr., the CNMI government is asserting its title over submerged lands, which the U.S. claims to be incidental to its sovereignty over the Commonwealth when the Trust Territory Period ended. "Pursuant to the Covenant, the submerged lands of the Northern Marianas are the property of the people. They were never given away or implicitly conveyed. Instead, the people, via the CNMI, retained these lands through the Covenant," Tajeron said.

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\$50K so far raised by NMI Japan Disaster Relief

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After conducting several fund-raising events, the NMI Japan Disaster Relief group raised \$50,000 to aid relief efforts for the victims affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial joined members of the nonprofit organization in presenting the check donation to Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi yesterday morning at the governor's conference room at Capitol Hill.

"I hope that this will be helpful to those who are in need after that calamity," said Fitial as he and Nick Nishikawa of NMI Japan Disaster Relief handed the check to Higuchi.

Fitial, who recounted growing up with a Japanese name, said the local culture was influenced by "Japanese friends."

"We appreciate the influence of the Japanese culture upon our own local culture... We learned how to be humble because of the way Japanese people treat us," added the governor.

Fitial described the situation in Japan as "very difficult."

"We are always willing to provide any assistance," he said.

For his part, Higuchi commended Fitial for a "very strong leadership" for helping organize the NMI Japan Disaster Relief group.

He expressed his appreciation to the members of the group comprised mainly of members of various organizations like the Japanese Society of NMI, Hotel Association of the NMI, and the Japan Saipan Travel Association for their "very hard effort" during all fundraising events.

"Already 50 days has passed since this tragedy hit Japan," said Higuchi. "Reconstruction

has already started."

Although some of the affected are "gradually getting back to normal," Higuchi said that many are still confused, encouraging maximum effort from the Japanese government in controlling the situation.

"I'm sure, through our own effort, and with the help of the global society, Japan will come back soon and will come back even stronger," he said.

Higuchi also thanked the government and people of the CNMI for their "support and very warm assistance" despite being "heavily affected" by the many cancellations of Japanese tourists traveling to the islands.

Nishikawa also expressed his appreciation to the administration for making the fundraising "successful." "I'm sure this will help Japan to recover for its reconstruction," he added.

Judy C. Torres, MVA deputy managing director, said the relief effort is "just one way of showing support and solidarity for the people of Japan."

"We partnered together with the community to make this effort a success. Hopefully, it will help their recovery from the devastating earthquake and tsunami," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

In an interview before the check presentation, Yoichi Matsumura of NMI Japan Disaster Relief said the amount came from the money they collected at their booth at the Garapan Street Market for three Thursdays, during the "Join Us Help Japan" fundraiser and radio-thon last April 2, various direct donations, and eight different raffle draws.

Matsumura and Gordon Marciano, both from Pacific Development, Inc., said that they plan to hold more fundraising events in the coming months.

These fundraisers, Marciano

and Matsumura said, include two more raffle draws during the Taste of Marianas, which will be held on all weekends of May; sales of local artist John Ichihara's music CD; proceeds of Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band's concert tonight; and a golf tournament in June.

"We plan to hold fundraising events until June, when our nonprofit corporation papers expire," added Matsumura.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, is flanked by Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi and Nick Nishikawa of NMI Japan Disaster Relief group during the presentation of the \$50,000 donation to aid relief efforts for the victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck the nation on March 11.



13th TASTE OF THE MARIANAS
MAY 2011
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2011

Saturday, May 7, 2011

6:00 p.m.	Joe T. Limes (CNMI/National Anthem)
6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Opening Remarks
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Natibu Band
7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Inatua Cultural Dancers
7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Cab Dancers
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Island Warriors
8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Pacific Flowers
9:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Nolas Kaliga

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"Hafa Adai Tirow" Spirit Island Wear Fridays

Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear of the Northern Mariana Islands" and get a chance to win Taste of the Marianas tokens and a Tourism Month t-shirt; one lucky winner per week will be chosen from all who post photos.

Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden

This highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by over 15 hotel and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.

"My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation

Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas. Tourism Month informational packages will also be available on-site.

On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Tuesday feature of the Saipan Tribune.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did You Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (99.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM).

Taste of the Marianas Competitions

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Syrian winter: Assad shoots democracy advocates

When pro-democracy protesters began rallying a few weeks ago, Syrian President Bashar Assad set out to change their tune. He has succeeded, though not quite as he hoped.

At the beginning, demonstrators wanted the longtime dictator to embrace political reform, and he made some gestures in that direction, such as lifting a 48-year-old state of emergency law. Now, they don't want him to embrace reform; they want him to leave.

The change of heart has come in response to the government's violent suppression of dissent, which has reportedly claimed more than 400 lives. Last Friday and Saturday, security forces opened fire on protesters in several cities, killing more than 100 people. Others have been arrested and tortured.

Outraged dissidents destroyed pictures of the president and smashed statues of his father, Hafez Assad, whose death in 2000 brought Bashar to power. Others chanted, "The people want the fall of the regime."

The regime has raised the stakes—and the risks to its survival. By killing so many, it has assured a procession of funerals that will be used as new occasions to dramatize the need for drastic political change. There have been news reports that some military units have refused to fire on demonstrators. Two members of parliament and a government-appointed Muslim cleric have resigned their posts in protest of the crackdown.

Assad's brutality has also spurred other nations to mobilize against him. The Obama administration indicated it may impose economic sanctions on Syria, and European countries will most likely follow suit. Leaders of France, Italy and Great Britain condemned the violence on Tuesday.

Assad is unlikely to flinch at diplomatic finger-wagging. He knows the West has its hands full enforcing a no-fly zone in the stalemated civil war in Libya. Syria already has plenty of experience with surviving economic sanctions. Its fate rests in the hands of its own persistent people.

Until now, the United States and its allies had tried to coax Assad to implement reform, hoping to avert violent upheaval in a strategically located country. But Assad has made such indulgence untenable.

After Bashar took over, he held out the hope of liberalization, but his modest reforms didn't last. When democratic hopes rolled over the Arab world this year, he couldn't bring himself to swim with the tide. His decision last week to lift the state of emergency, it appears, was merely an excuse to demand that opponents stop demonstrating, or else.

But his crackdown may do the regime more harm than good. As other governments in the region have found, brutality often does not stop demands for change. On the contrary, it expands their appeal, and gives proponents new motivation.

The turmoil evokes concern in neighboring countries, particularly Israel and Turkey, which fear Syria could descend into sectarian violence or fall to a radical Islamic revolution. Those worries can't be dismissed, if only because so much is unknown about the country. But nationalist feeling may be strong enough to prevent factional fighting, and there are few signs that Syrians yearn for fundamentalist rule.

The world has moved sharply toward democracy in recent decades, and the Arab world has begun to join the parade. It's up to Assad to decide if he wants to try to get in front or risk being trampled.

(c) 2011, Chicago Tribune.



Death knell for state-controlled media in Mideast

By ZOE HOLMAN
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

LONDON—The future looks grim for state-run media in the Middle East and North Africa in the wake of the social and political upheaval that have rocked the areas.

The ability of governments to control the information its citizens receive has been undone by the profusion of satellite TV channels, as well as the proliferation of social media networks.

"There is no future for Arab state media," said Faisal Abbas, a London-based blogger for the Huffington Post.

The public has long doubted the credibility of such state-run organs as Egypt's al-Ahram newspaper, Abbas said, noting that the government's poorly disguised efforts to interfere with editorial content destroyed the paper's ability to sway public opinion.

On the other hand, a single Facebook page in support of Khalid Said, the Egyptian blogger who died in police custody last June, was enough to inspire the movement that eventually brought down the Mubarak regime.

The same was true in Tunisia, where a video showing Tunisian fruit seller Mohamed Bouazizi setting himself on fire to express his frustration with life in that country became viral on YouTube and was viewed all across the Arab world.

"(Social media) is not the message," added Dina Matar, a lecturer in Arab media and political communication at London's School of African and Oriental Studies. "It is a tool, which has given protesters the ability to frame the narrative, but there are other factors. The uprisings have now shifted from cyber-politics to street politics, where the traditional media of rallies, graffiti and leaflets have been

used. The people, and not just journalists, have created the angle on the stories."

Meanwhile, efforts by some Arab regimes to use Facebook and Twitter for their own purposes have failed miserably.

Even more powerful, blogger Abbas said, are satellite news channels like al-Jazeera, with its audience of 40 million Arab viewers every day.

"I subscribe wholeheartedly to the view that these revolutions were powered by information," said al-Jazeera's Cairo correspondent Ayman Moyheldin. "I don't support the notion that it was purely Facebook or Twitter, but it was a mixture of media, and the Internet was crucial."

Moyheldin said he believes state-run media will eventually fail. "If competition doesn't take out state-owned newspapers and channels, dictators will dismantle them themselves, because they no longer serve any use," he said.

"State television and newspapers in the Arab world have been completely discredited," agreed Hugh Miles, a journalist and the author of "Al-Jazeera: How Arab TV News Challenged the World." "They've been trailing behind for years and now need to be competitive with funding and creating a political environment that promotes freedom of speech," he said.

"Editorial integrity must be proven, not promised," Abbas argued. "Let everybody have their say, and the best voice will win."

Zoe Holman is a staff member of The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict. Readers may write to the author at the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, 48 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, U.K.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A jolly old brew

If you're in the habit of brooding over a cup of coffee as you dread your next trip to Mobil or Shell, I've got news for you: Even the brooding is more expensive now.

Indeed, coffee has almost doubled in price over the past year. Some accounts are saying that it's hit a 34-year high, but I don't know if these reports factor in inflation which, over that many years, is a big deal that can totally skew non-adjusted results. Anyway, inflation or not, up is up, and up it is.

Is nothing sacred? Gasoline and coffee are the two most essential things in life, and now they've both gone through the roof.

So, what the heck, let's talk coffee today. Why not? It's not like we've got anything else to do. We can't afford to drive anywhere. We can't afford to sit at home and run the aircon. Might as well just sit under a tropical Flame tree and sweat, I guess.

Speaking of tropical, coffee is basically a tropical crop. And 63 percent of the coffee grown comes from just four countries. Having such a high concentration in supply can induce large swings in prices, and coffee is one volatile commodity indeed.

If we take a look at the raw production by nation, ignoring important stuff like the type of coffee grown and the dollar value of the crops, here's how the world's coffee crop shakes out using last year's data as the reference:

The biggest producer, by far, is Brazil, which accounts for 36 percent of the world's production.

As for the second biggest producer, I had assumed it was Indonesia, but it's not. It's actually Vietnam, which produces 13 percent of world's coffee.

OK, proceeding down the list, now we can think about Indonesia,

and, while we're at it, Columbia, too, each of which account for about seven percent of the world's production.

Overall, then, these top four producers jointly account for 63 percent of the world's coffee.

Here's an important distinction: The market is dominated by two different species, Arabica and Robusta. To the American palate, and America is by far the largest consumer of coffee, Arabica is the preferred bean, said to provide a more mild and mellow brew.

Globally, Arabica outsells Robusta by a two-to-one margin. Arabica also fetches about two- to three times more money per pound than Robusta does.

So while Vietnam's status as No. 2 in coffee production in impressive, that's mitigated financially by the fact it's primarily a Robusta exporter.

One hundred percent Arabica used to be what Americans expected for good coffee, but, eventually, various price pressures caused some (but not all) suppliers to blend in the cheaper Robusta beans to keep costs down.

Anyway, here were the approximate market prices earlier this week: Arabica prices were, depending on grade, about \$2.88 a pound to \$3.24 a pound. Robusta was about \$1.19 a pound.

Of course, the cost of the coffee itself is just one component of the overall price we're paying at retail store or cafe. I'd expect that a can of coffee at the grocery store will track wholesale prices a lot closer than a cup of coffee at a restaurant will.

Coffee is not an easy crop. It takes 2,000 to 4,000 beans to yield just one pound of the stuff. Whoa! Stop right there. I can already tell that I'm not cut out for coffee farming. I start pouting when my

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



wife insists I pick out a half-dozen oranges from the produce section, which I never do right anyway, so she doesn't ask me anymore.

The Arabs are credited with cultivating the first coffee. The English are credited with opening the first coffee house, in 1652. Many salty old tales of maritime adventure start in English coffee houses, where speculators chipped in to fund risky ship voyages to exotic lands. This is, in fact, the genesis of the famous Lloyd's of London insurance, which started its gig in Edward Lloyd's coffee house around 1688.

Ah, now there's a job to consider: Sitting in a London coffee shop as a professional speculator, drinking coffee all day, and saying cool stuff like "jolly good" and "old chap."

And maybe they're hiring: coffee futures are traded in London, and on exchanges in Brazil, Tokyo, and New York.

The humble coffee bean isn't so humble, is it? It has a worldwide presence and a storied past which leads all the way to your mug in Saipan. So it's more than a cup of brew, old chap, it's a piece of history.

Kate and William, Charles and Di, you and me

We are getting on with age. In '81, we were feted with images of the fairytale wedding of the century—Charles the Prince of Wales and Lady Di Spencer at England's St. Paul's Cathedral (coz to St. Paul congregants in Saipan). That was 30 years ago, and the eldest of two sons from that union walks his bride in the same aisle this Friday.

We are actually holding a two-day sports festival at Shenyang Aerospace U (cricket is a demo event in the field, which tells you that the sun has yet to set on the British Empire) so our time at the bleachers today leaves us a lot of time to relax, reminisce, and reflect while students cheer on the athletic prowess of their classmates. One of my students is actually running the 100m dash but I will restrain myself from exhausting the voice since we have six Oral English—the courage to talk—classes per week.

Besides, at the sports fest's opening, we thought we would just fade into the crowd only to find out that the foreign contingent was a prominent feature of the entrance parade. With a nice white cap from Adidas, a uniform light blue T-shirt, and a wind whirly propeller, we marched into the Olympic-decked stadium led by a blonde French student in red qipao, which beats her usual Levis any day.

Being one of three lao ye ye (grandpas) in the faculty, we got to march behind the French sign bearer (OK, she's in my economics class), which reminds me of the time I had ROTC in college and the corps was short of officers; being the StuCo president, I got assigned to be officer of the marching band and be consort to the band majorette at social functions. Those were the days my friend (If you find some of my lines are straight out of popular songs, they are; what better way to teach Oral English than to sing it!).

It is springtime in the rockies, and we do no mean the Colorados, though Changbaishan, Korea's Paektusan with the volcanic crater, is one geological formation to visit when the weather gets warmer. Now, for our rockies, we refer to the intentionally scattered boulders strewn around the campus lawn as part of the garden tradition of the Chinese feng shui suddenly growing green grass where it was grey only a few days ago, and the spindly and wiry twigs that looked dead last winter suddenly sprouting white and violet flowers. The fragrance of the peach blossoms ushers the Yinghua (cherry blossoms), now bursting in Yokohama, just a few weeks before bursting out time here in Dong Bei.

But ecology is not at the surface of our consciousness these days, though it should since nothing counters fantasy more than nature's reality. Why Saipan insists on get-rich-quick schemes (like casinos) instead on building on its incredible natural and human capital makes our point of the preponderance of the fairy tale as the paradigm story by which many lives are conducted and engaged. Fairytales allow for all kinds of smokes and mirrors to flourish; Charles

and Di's majestic union failed to result in a Hollywood ending since the reality of Camille was ignored; delusions of grandeur and illusions of happiness continuous to characterize many lives.

This is evident at the luxury car expo in Shanghai where China remains the only market that still attract multimillion \$ cars. Of course, this was the same week that Disneyland broke ground in their theme park in Shanghai, following the success of their HK and Tokyo market, and seven million Sony Playstation subscribers got rudely intruded by reality when a hacker got into their dbase.

Those who grew up with features of the imperial Christian story retold their global myth in the rehearsal of Lenten metaphors last week, but, of course, the Galilean who insisted on the authority of authenticity ("It was said of old, ... but I say unto you ..."), putting his own life on the line to compel accountability of practice and tradition, has been replaced by the same type of persons (who shivered

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



with fear before the Romans, today's Feds and the Pentagon, on the one hand, and were terrified by the frenzy of the followers, today's taotao tano/refalawasch, on the other) he confronted in Jerusalem. Ironically, the iconoclastic memory of the Nazarene, following

See KATE on Page 13

Letter to the Editor

What kind of unification?

Guam and the CNMI are already within the U.S. political system! What unification are we asking for? The CNMI is already voted to be part of such great political union.

Guam was part of Spain and became part of America after the Spanish-American war. Spain started the war against America and lost Guam. Legally, America paid Spain \$20 million for the ownership of Guam after the war ended.

People of Guam before the said war were Spanish or with Spanish blood in them, who were part of Spain. They speak Spanish with a dialect known as Chamorro (a Spanish/Nicaraguan word). Chamorro dialect is not a native word but actually a Spanish dialect spoken in Guam and CNMI.

The natives in the Mariana Islands (CNMI and Guam) were Malayan in origin and are minority and just a few of them. Names like Ayuyu, Taga, Gumatautua, Taitano, Aguigui, and a few more. Furthermore, most of these people are mixed with Spanish blood now and before.

The Marianas people are happy to part of the American family of immigrants, that of which the USA is made of.

The Marianas people are very lucky for its small population to have two representatives in the U.S. Congress. These two representatives should come up with some kind of innovative ideas to work jointly for the benefits of the Mariana Islands and have it approved by USA. No need to make it complicated...do a unified approach.

"Unification" as being now contemplated won't work. There's too much cultural hang-ups, racism, envies, greed, and bias emo-

tions amongst people within Guam and CNMI.

Suggestion: Since the Marianas Islands were used by America that actually ended World War II, from which our American freedom started to really magnified and respected throughout the world. Now in return for such sacrifice made by the natives of the Marianas during such hectic said event, America should help the Marianas in a great economic way that these two representatives need not request further financial assistance from America.

The following is a suggested project that will produce such economic power that Guam and CNMI can split evenly together on annual revenue of \$54 billion.

Building a commercialized Peace Memorial Tower on every state of the union each generating \$4 million annually and should be under the control of the two said representative. The following specification is important for the success of such endeavor:

1. Build a structure for a tall tower and must be a design 1,700-foot Taga House with a revolving restaurants inside the top cup. Under the top cup, a 300-room hotel. Under it, 500-office space/room, further down convention spaces for all kinds of events...revenue is calculated over \$4 million per tower per month...more if we put it under NY Stock Exchange.

Economic unification is the only way for the future of Guam and CNMI...let's do it. What you say?






Serafin Dela Cruz

Via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89 ▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲83 ▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼79

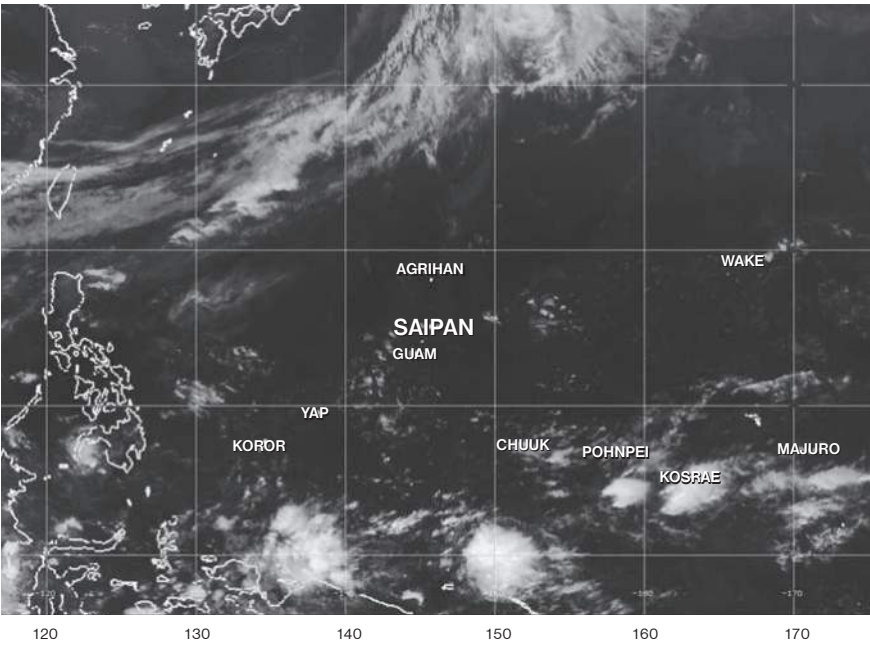
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼56
Beijing	Windy	▲72 ▼49
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲80 ▼75
Honolulu	Showers	▲83 ▼72
London	Rain	▲67 ▼51
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼52
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲70 ▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼73
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼46
Osaka	Cloudy	▲69 ▼53
Paris	Showers	▲70 ▼47
Pusan	Showers	▲65 ▼56
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲71 ▼52
Salem	Rain	▲56 ▼40
San Francisco	Sunny	▲62 ▼49
Seoul	Showers	▲61 ▼49
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲71 ▼53
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼50

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
5:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
11:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
5:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet	
11:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging winds south of a surface trough southeast of Japan are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of a line from 23N130E to 23N138E to 25N143E. Another surface trough extends northwestward across Koror from 1N139E to 12N131E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southeast of Koror between the equator and 5N from 133E to 145E. An upper-level trough curves southwestward from 25N168E to 2N145E. Upper-level divergence east of the trough is combining with trade-wind convergence to produce isolated thunderstorms near and west of Chuuk between 6N and 10N from 144E to 154E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:00 AM	3:22 PM
Saturday	3:35 AM	4:08 PM
Sunday	4:11 AM	4:55 PM
Monday	4:49 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	5:29 AM	6:34 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 21, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09605 6:20pm 7:10pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:45am Daily, Departs at 6:05am effective June 1 DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:45pm 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 DL288 8:05pm 12:35am+1 Daily, Arrives at 12:45am effective June 1, 2011
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN CA987 6:40pm 1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL285/173 6:40am 10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT C09313/933 7:55am 9:25pm 3 via GUM C09313/893 7:55am 11:00pm 3 via GUM-Palau C09603/933 3:05pm 9:25pm 5 via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 11:00pm 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN OZ604/715 3:20pm 11:30pm 7 C09605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ716/603 12:30am 2:20pm 4, 6 via ICN DL172/286 8:05am 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C0890/9606 10:55am 8:50pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:25am+1 6 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM-Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 4 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:35pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

FLY GUAM FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Guam-Saipan	Flight Sector	ETD	ETA	Turn-around Time	Flytime Hrs	Dates
5K389		12:30	13:20	01:00	00:50	Mon, Thu, Sat
Saipan-Guam						
5K382		18:05	18:55	HK	00:50	Tue, Fri, Sun
Saipan-Hong Kong						
5K168		14:20	17:30	HKG	05:10	Mon, Thu, Sat
Hong Kong-Saipan						
5K169		10:00	17:05	01:00	05:05	Tue, Fri, Sun
Mar. 28 - May 22						
Guam-Saipan						
5K389		13:35	14:25	01:00	00:50	Mon, Thu, Sat
Saipan-Guam						
5K382		18:00	18:50	HKG	00:50	Tue, Fri, Sun
Saipan-Hong Kong						
5K168		15:25	18:35	HKG	05:10	Mon, Thu, Sat
Hong Kong-Saipan						
5K169		09:55	17:00	01:00	05:05	Tue, Fri, Sun



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

It's not personal

Craig Garrison has misled the public to believe that what we are protesting against is personal and only because I am concerned about his termination of my wife.

He blamed the CUC line crew for chopping down all the trees at MHS, and personal injuries and the fact that some students "peek under girls skirts" as reasons for demolishing the MHS stage. Perhaps he could provide proof of the purported injuries and students peeking under girls skirts that could justify his decision to destroy the school stage.

As for the chopping down of the trees, I will have to let the public make their judgment because it's not only the pine trees along the MHS Beach Road side that were chopped down. The coconut trees planted along the road to the MHS Gym on the southern edge of the field adjacent to the MHS library and the plumeria trees that were planted along the stretch of Buildings A-D are also gone.

Additionally, the tall monkey pod tree that used to hover over the six large 1,000 gallon water tanks in front of the vocational buildings is also gone. In fact that tree was chopped down three weeks ago by one of our school aide as directed by Garrison. Its chopped branches that lay strewn on the ground and the stump were quickly removed two days ago to hide any evidence from the public. Even the concrete basement for the six landmark MHS water tanks was also removed the same day.

The water tanks were a monument in itself and I am really saddened to see them go. I wish I know who he gave them to so I could bring them back. It was the landmark that many people use as back-

A proven, island-style, 'no-cost' alternative

This is to advise the president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to read in its entirety Senate Bill 17-20, which authorizes the CNMI Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV) to establish a driver's education program, and for other purposes. The "other purposes" is the key element of this bill that is currently with the governor.

The other purposes include an alternative drivers' training program that has been used throughout the years in the U.S. mainland and can now be utilized here. It allows anyone 15 years or older to obtain a learner's permit and learn how to drive with a licensed adult over the age of 21 years of age. This allows for our young CNMI residents and others to learn how to drive with a responsible adult, which is how most young islanders learned how to drive in the past with their fathers, mothers, older siblings, uncles, aunts, or other relatives and friends. Consequently, at the age of 16 or older, the young driver takes his or her physical driving test and if they pass, they become legally licensed to drive.

Currently, many Saipan residents have complained of the big problem with the private company charging excessive fees that has produced a large number of young people (and others) driving illegally. They just can't afford the \$350, so let's allow them to learn the old fashion and acceptable way of learning how to drive in the real world with older family members and peers.

The BMV will institute a program in the future when the funding is available, like it is already permissible in the law for PSS and NMC to also create programs if they so desire and, furthermore, the private company can continue to offer its drivers' education program too. It is just more economically fair in these tough times for the young drivers and older residents of the Commonwealth to have a proven, island-style, "no-cost" program as an alternative.

Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres

Via email

KATE

From Page 11

Judaic aversion to idolatry, would itself create its own, elevate the lowly carpenter to the regal Kristo Rai before which the Sanhedrin of Capital Hill periodically genuflect to identify their solidarity with folks that got them their scribal authority. The legislator's rationale that poker gambling is already a reality on Saipan so regulated gambling should be allowed, is like saying that the room is already dirty so we should not mind throwing more dirt into the floor!

At the SAU sports stadium, "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat," the mantra of imperial sports, is slowly being replaced by the Olympic spirit where one competes with one's last accomplishment of record, so the illusion of "bettering" one's peers is replaced by the reality of competing against one's own performance. That is a win-win situation. And as Nike tells athletes before their sport: "Just do it!"

We say the same in the plane of life. While fairy tales still reign, and we hope Kate and William (against all odds) keep their feet on the ground, let happy endings stay at Joeten Kiyu shelves. Real life ("you and me" is perfect English by my reckon), sans illusions, is what we celebrate. L'achaim!

drop of many campus photos.

We are not only protesting all the radical changes taking place on campus and the removal of the teachers, but also against the hostile working environment that he brought to Marianas High School. Teachers are really unhappy and are not performing their duties well. The toxic working environment at the school is affecting all of us including our students. The only exceptions are the few teachers that hang a lot around him.

Additionally, we are also protesting the manner in which these highly qualified, longtime Marianas High School teachers were removed. There is no clear reason for any of them to be released from Marianas High School except that Garrison won't need them next school year. Employees are usually removed from their jobs because of wrongdoing. These MHS teachers did not do anything wrong at all, and none have any pending case filed against them.

We have been advised to follow the legal PSS procedure and file a grievance against him because it would be difficult to get rid of him without a justifiable cause. Sadly teachers can be terminated at any time. As it stands now there is nothing that stands in Garrison's way to back down from his continued intimidation and harassment of MHS staff and teachers. The only solution is for all of us to come together and continue this peaceful protest to get him out quickly from MHS.

Sadly, today may be the last day of our four-day protest unless circumstances change, and we hope something good has come out of it. Personally I am ready to accept whatever the consequences, and I am sure Mrs. Yangetmai feels the same way. We stood up for all our colleagues and our students. We knew from the very beginning that what we are up against will be a monumental task to accomplish, but we just couldn't accept the fact that no one is willing to stand up and try to do something about it.

We are very thankful to Mrs. Damiana Satur DeGuzman Arko and Jerome Faisao Taisacan for putting their jobs on the line to join us. We extend our sincere Si Yu'us Maase to Congressman Stanley Torres for inviting us up to address our concerns to the members of the CNMI Legislature. To the parents and our loyal supporters who stood proudly with us, we cannot find words to express how we are deeply moved by your unwavering support and presence.

To all of those that gave us your support and assurances: from the silent supporters to those who sent us emails, and the waving and honking of car horns we extend our Ghilisou. Unfortunately all of those does not get us anywhere. We need your presence.

James Yangetmai
MHS teacher

APARTMENT AND CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

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IT&E is newest MMAC title sponsor

IT&E has become the latest title sponsor of the 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer. Title sponsorship is the highest level of sponsorship for the MMAC and is conferred on corporations that donate \$3,000 or more in cash or services.

"The 2011 MMAC committee is extremely grateful to the staff and management of IT&E for their continuous support in the battle against cancer. IT&E is one of the oldest traditional title sponsors and their unending support is deeply appreciated," said 2011 MMAC public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion.

IT&E has agreed to donate a phone line and DSL internet connection for use by the Commonwealth Cancer Association

Office, billing inserts promoting the upcoming 2011 MMAC event, six phones, and airtime for use by MMAC volunteers plus great raffle prizes including six gift bags valued at \$20 each and a year of free unlimited local service. For information on how to purchase raffle tickets, contact 2011 MMAC overall committee chair Dave B. Guerrero at 989-2496 or via email at dave.b.guerrero@gmail.com.

"We'd like to remind the community that the largest annual cancer fundraising event in the CNMI is coming up on May 13-14 and all our teams are holding fundraising events up until the big day. There are raffle tickets and luminaries for sale at only \$5 each. Raffle prizes up for grabs include a

free ticket to the U.S. mainland, a free ticket to Honolulu plus travel credit vouchers courtesy of title sponsor Delta Air Lines. Purchase a luminary in honor of a loved one who is currently undergoing cancer treatment or in honor of a loved one who has won the fight against cancer. Or you may purchase a luminary in memory of someone who has lost the battle against this terrible disease. Each luminary will be lit throughout the night as a sign that community support is there for all who have faced or are facing cancer," said Concepcion.

"Also, MMAC's Team Aschoscho will be hosting a co-ed softball tournament from April 30-May 1 at the Capital Hill Ballfield. Registration fee is

\$150 and the deadline to register is this Friday, April 29. All funds raised will go toward the Marianas March Against Cancer. For more information, contact Jerome Delos Santos at 989-7456 or Nadia Saralu at 288-1458," said Concepcion.

The 2011 MMAC will be held from 6pm to 6am on May 13-14 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

The 2011 MMAC is brought to you by title sponsors Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, IT&E, Saipan Health Clinic/St. Jude Renal Care Facility and Take Care/FHP. Special thanks to Bank of Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IP&E/Shell Marianas, Marianas Health Services, MMAC Golf Tournament Organizers, Saipan Golfers As-

sociation, Saipan Images, and Younis Art Studios. For more information visit www.ccamarinas.org. (PR)

The Three Musketeers set this weekend

The Friends of the Arts, with the help of Willis Hall, is bringing to Saipan a comedic and highly amusing version of *The Three Musketeers* this coming weekend at 7pm on April 29, 30, and 3pm on May 1.

In this version, FOA is taking over the play last minute from the great Comdie Francais (French National Theater), and is having some difficulty with French names, sword fighting up to standard, and replacing 200 actors from the Comdie Francais.

This play will be performed at the Multi-Purpose Center, and is the final performance for those carrying a FOA season ticket. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$12 for FOA members, and \$8 for students. For more information, contact Frank Gibson at fl-gibson@yahoo.com. (FOA)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



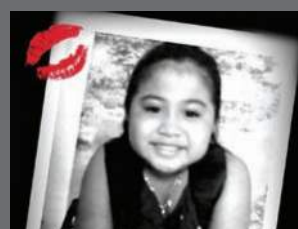
Happy birthday to our sister Darlyn Lizama. Wishing you the very best day of your life and may the good lord continue to bless you and guide you always. Love you sis. Wish we're all there for your special day. Cheers and enjoy! Greetings from Mom, siblings, nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles here at 670.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Elo! With the new year in your life, may you achieve bigger things. God bless you! From your Ernst & Young Saipan family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 6th birthday to our baby girl Marlyn Ana Ru-moon, whose birthday was yesterday, April 28. May you be forever blessed with the wonderful things that life has to offer. We love you so much! Greeting from your Dad, Mom, brother, sister, and your entire family.

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Feel the difference

Grant sought to develop 3D video of underwater sites

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The approval of a grant applied for by a non-profit organization will help develop a three-dimensional underwater video featuring underwater sites in the CNMI and a long-term monitoring program of these sites.

Dr. Jennifer McKinnon of Flinders University in South Australia disclosed that Ships of Discovery, a group that offi-

cially came into being as an underwater archaeology research institute in 1989, applied for the American Battlefield Protection Program 2011 grant in January.

"We'll hear about it in June or July whether or not we got it," McKinnon told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to McKinnon, the grant will develop a 3D underwater video involving specific underwater sites they have already documented, which can then be shown in schools and

Visitor's Centers.

"You don't have to be a diver to experience sites 3D... It's for snorkelers, it's for divers, the general public interested in history that don't dive or don't swim can visit the sites through 3D technology," she explained.

Part of the grant, McKinnon said, will also be used to develop a long-term monitoring program of the sites to study and

minimize the impacts on them.

She said the group will work closely with the local Historic Preservation Office to visit the sites, take specific measurements, and record impacts.

"Without knowledge of

what is happening at the sites, we won't know how to protect them," she added.

McKinnon noted that the monitoring program to be developed will be made specific for the CNMI.

She said the recipients of the grant will be announced in June or July.

Ships of Exploration received the same grant in 2009, which was utilized for the archaeological survey and GIS mapping of Invasion Beach at Tanapag Lagoon to identify and document submerged remains of the Battle of Saipan for use in the future development of an underwater maritime heritage trail.

Managaha sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Managaha and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fe-

cal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 11 locations on Mangaha this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
Happy first wedding anniversary to Ton and Eden Aguon who will be celebrating this special day on May 1, 2011. We wish you both the very best in life and many more years to come. Love your kids, grandchildren, and in-laws.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

4 Rota sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Teweksberry Beach, Dist. #1 Storm Drain, Veterans Memorial, and Swimming Hole on Rota and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations

had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Rota this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

NMC to hold auditions for Charter Day competitions

The Northern Marianas College 2011 Charter Day Committee will be holding auditions for the celebration's three main competitions: the Marianas Idol, the Dance Crew Competition Challenge, and the Battle of the Bands.

All auditions are being held in the Student Center located in Building J. Marianas Idol auditions will be held on Monday, May 2, at 5pm; Battle of the Bands on Tuesday, May 3, at 5pm; and Dance Crew Competition on Wednesday, May 4, at 5pm.

For the Battle of the Bands auditions, bands are required to bring their own equipment.

The competitions will be judged on categories that include stage presentation, entertainment value, and overall performance. Six finalists will be selected for Marianas Idol, three crews

for the Dance Crew Competition Challenge and three bands for the Battle of the Bands.

The Charter Day Committee invites everyone in the community interested in competing to pick up an application form from the NMC Student Center in Building J at the college's As Terlaje campus or log on to www.nmcnet.edu and download an application. There is no application fee for any of the competitions.

In addition to the exciting entertainment, there will also be several vendors featuring island delicacies, drink concessions, and much more.

For more information about auditions or entertainment, contact L.J. Castro at 234-5498 ext. 1253 or email luisjohnc@nmcnet.edu. For booth vending contact Rose Pangelinan at 234-5498 ext. 1253 or email rosep@nmcnet.edu. (PR)

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Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Grilled Saba, Sprill Roll, Chamorro Beef Steak, Coco, Rice, Ramen	Shrimp Tempura, Chicken Roll, Spicy Tofu, Coco, Rice, Ramen	Choice of: • Oyakodon (Chicken) • Katsudon (Pork) • Teriyaki Chicken-Don • Gyudon

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NMHC buys 32 properties from federal loan program

» Expects more foreclosures in the future

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 32 properties have been purchased by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. toward the end of 2010 under the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program.

"These properties are either abandoned or still occupied and are either foreclosed upon

or seriously delinquent," Jesse Palacios, Mortgage and Credit Division manager of NMHC, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Palacios did not disclose the purchase price for the units, saying that he needs to get clearance from the USDA RD office in Hawaii before he releases the information.

The need to purchase the properties, Palacios said, was

brought by the memorandum of understanding with USDA RD.

Palacios described the USDA RD program, more commonly known as the Farmer's Home Program, as a loan program for low-income families in the CNMI.

According to Palacios, USDA RD used to have an office on island. It closed down in 2007.

"NMHC packages the loans and then sends them to Guam for

processing," said Palacios. "We have not packaged a USDA RD loan for about four years now."

Palacios said that NMHC has not packaged any USDA RD loan "for about four years now."

"There is a new MOU or agreement with them that needs to be reviewed first by NMHC before this program is to be offered in the CNMI," he added.

Palacios disclosed that the 32 properties are two- to three-

bedroom units located in home- stead areas and private lots on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to Palacios, about half of the properties is occupied while the other half is vacant.

Palacios said that for the occupied units, they will work with the borrowers to do a loan modification.

"We still need to determine if they have the repayment ability to continue with the mortgage payments," he explained.

On the other hand, NMHC will publish a notice of sale for

the abandoned properties "in the very near future."

According to Palacios, the acquisition of the 32 properties is "just the initial purchase."

"There will be more foreclosures in the future and NMHC does not have the funding to purchase more accounts from USDA RD," said Palacios, adding that the agency has been talking to different groups such as the Marianas Public Land Trust, Retirement Fund, Commonwealth Development Authority, and the Legislature for additional funding.

Chamber hosts college scholarships, high school workshops

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Doug Brennan reminded senior high school students and the Saipan community of the chamber's upcoming annual high school workshops and college scholarship awards.

The chamber will host workshops specifically designed for public and private graduating

high school seniors at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan this Saturday, April 30, from 8am to 1:30pm. Registration begins at 7:30am and opening activities commence at 8am.

The workshop sessions include:

1. What's Next After High

School (A Look at Careers)

2. I Have to Live on That ? (Personal Budgeting)

3. Oh NO, I Have an Interview, Now What ? (Resume Writing and Interviews)

4. I Can't Come to Work Today (Balancing Work and Family Expectations)

5. I'm Not Sure What to Say

(Communication Skills for Success)

6. Program Assessment and Lunch with Chamber Members

7. Certificates of Completion and Dismissal

The chamber also reminds all interested college bound high school graduating students, public and private, of its annual scholarship awards for those needing financial assistance.

The chamber awards five \$2,000 scholarships through its Educational Scholarship Fund. The deadline for submission of applications is Friday, May 6, 2011. Awards will be presented at the June 1, 2011 during the chamber's general membership meeting.

SCC Education Committee chair Kanae Quinn stated scholarships are awarded by virtue

of academic excellence, extra-curricular success, leadership force, and service learning.

Brennan stated, "The chamber continues to serve itself best by assisting local students to become active, competent and educated members of our business community. It's also a part of our own commitment to the community in which we partner for everyone's benefit." (SCC)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health



ANNOUNCEMENT

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2011-2012

On March 24, 2011, a Notice announcing the revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. WIC State agencies must implement the new guidelines effective July 1, 2011.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines (see below).

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines (Effective from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)

48 Contiguous States, D.C., Guam and Territories

Household Number	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	\$20,147	\$1,679	\$840	\$775	\$388
2	27,214	2,268	1,134	1,047	524
3	34,281	2,857	1,429	1,319	660
4	41,348	3,446	1,723	1,591	796
5	48,415	4,035	2,018	1,863	932
6	55,482	4,624	2,312	2,134	1,067
7	62,549	5,213	2,607	2,406	1,203
8	69,616	5,802	2,901	2,678	1,339
Each Add'l Member Add	+7,067	+589	+295	+272	+136

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-formerly the Food Stamp Program), or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. For more information please call the WIC Clinic at 664-4084.

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

P. O. Box 502509 Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-4067 • Fax: (670) 664-4069



How is your baby growing?

If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:

Developmental Health Watch 13 to 18 Months

- Cannot walk by 18 months
- By 15 months, does not seem to know the function of common household objects (brush, telephone, bell, fork, spoon)
- Cannot take off clothing
- Cannot build a tower of 3 blocks
- Cannot scribble
- Cannot kick a ball forward
- Cannot walk upstairs
- Cannot say at least 6 words
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the **Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC)** at

664-4830

for a **FREE** developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.



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Leg Quarter 22 LBS. \$16.99 \$17.99 33 LBS. \$22.99 \$23.99 LIMIT 1 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1	Whole Chicken LIMIT 1 CASE \$35.99	Young Spare Ribs 10 LBS. \$18.99 Limit 1	Pork Spareribs BBQ/Adobo Cut 20 LBS. \$24.99 \$23.99 Limit 1 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1	Beef Back Spare Ribs 20 LBS. \$25.99	Gusto Smoked Ham/Whole Turkey \$1.99 /POUND	Mackerel PACIFIC 22.4 LBS. \$25.99 PIKE (uneven weight per case) \$1.29 /LB.	Bear Brand Powdered Milk 180g. 99¢
SEOK SU Dynamic Fresh 500ml. x 20 \$5.99 /CASE	Jasmine Lotus Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 1) \$25.99	Diamond G Calrose Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 1) \$27.99 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1	Sapporo Ichiban 21 pcs./case (LIMIT 1) \$8.99 /CASE 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1	Marukiyo Rice Cracker 100pcs. \$8.99	MH Coffee Mix 100 sticks \$6.99 LIMIT 1	Milo 1kg. \$5.99 LIMIT 2	Nescafe Classic 210g. \$5.99 LIMIT 2

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Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. \$1.15	Fish 4 You Crab Meat Stick 16 oz. \$1.99	Ground Beef 5 LBS. \$9.99 10 LBS. \$17.99	Bar-S Hotlinks 24 oz. \$3.99	Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. \$1.99	Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. \$1.79	DM Beef Stew 15 oz. \$1.79	Coco Tuna 7oz. \$1.19 Limit 6	3 Diamond Tuna \$1.19 Limit 12	Hornel Corned Beef 12 oz. \$1.99
Mackarel/Pike Family Bag \$6.99	Peeled Shrimp SC Brand 1 lb. \$2.99	Ocean Best Marinara Mix 1 lb. \$2.49	Cut Swimming Crab 1.5 lbs. \$6.99	Excellent Bihon 99¢	Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 99¢	Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. \$1.09	Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn 89¢	Carnation Evaporated 12 oz. (U.S.) \$1.39	
Vega Shrimp 1 lb. \$5.50 Limit 1	Imperial Choice Green Mussels 2 lbs. \$5.99 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1	Chicken Wings 3 lbs. \$6.99 5.5 lbs. \$12.99	Milk Fish \$1.39	Dongwon Seasoned Laver (sushi wrapper) 99¢	AVO Vegetable Oil 1 Gal. \$8.99 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1	Vegetable Oil 5 Gal. \$32.99	Wesson 100% Vegetable Oil 64 oz. \$5.99	Golden State White Vinegar 1 gallon \$3.49	Dragon 100% Vegetable Oil 1 Gal. \$8.99 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1
Tilapia 99¢	U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen \$2.39	Onion 79¢	Garlic \$2.99	Vlasic Dill Pickles (Wholes) 1 Gal. \$6.99	Kikkoman 1.6 L. \$3.99	Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. \$4.99	Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. Limit 2 pcs. \$3.29	Maseca 4.4 lbs. Limit 1 pc. \$4.99	

Korean Butane Gas Limit 1 Case \$21.99 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1	Foam Cups 51 cnts. \$1.99	Bounty Basic 8 rolls \$16.99	Bounty 15 Rolls \$20.99	Foam Plates 125 ct. \$7.99	
SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 oz.) 2 PCS. \$3.00	Horse Shampoo 1 qt. \$3.00 EACH	Spoon & Fork No Brand Name 100 cnts. \$1.50	Bottled White Candle (China) 12 pcs/case \$13.99	Huggies Big Pack (all size) \$20.99	Luvs Big Pack (All Size) \$20.99

Cottonelle double 24=48 rolls \$16.99	Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. \$7.99
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NON-FOOD

KOREAN TISSUE (35M x 10)	\$3.99
GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS)	\$19.95
GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.)	\$16.95
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	\$7.99
SCOTT NAPKIN (250 SHEETS)	\$3.49

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK	\$10.95	BEEF BACK RIBS	\$7.95
FLANK STEAK	\$16.95	BEEF OXTAIL	\$16.95
PORK ADOBO	\$10.95	BEEF STEW	\$12.95
PORK CHOP	\$11.95	RIBEYE STEAK	\$17.95
PORK BELLY	\$11.95	BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	\$14.95
STEWING CHICKEN	\$6.95	SMOKED HAM STEAK	\$12.95
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	\$4.99	PORK BUTT	\$10.95
U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	\$14.99		

Coco Mackerel 15 oz. \$1.29	Sugar 2 kg. \$2.49	Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. 79¢	Crisco Shortening 3 lbs. \$4.99 Vegetable \$5.99 Butter	Nissin Cup Noodles 27 oz./box all flavors \$5.99	
Argo Corn Starch Limit 3 pcs. 99¢	Kraft Cool Whip 16 oz. \$3.99	Philadelphia Original Cream Cheese \$2.99	Maxwell House 34.5 oz. \$9.99	Coffee Mate 50 oz. \$8.99 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1	Folgers 33.9 oz. \$9.99 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1
Country Time Lemonade 2.33 Kg. \$8.99	Tang 22 qts. \$7.99	Lipton Ice Tea 4 oz. \$6.99	Kool Aid 5 lbs. \$8.99	Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only \$6.99	
Whole Chicken Can 50 oz. \$5.99	Chamorro Punch 2L \$6.99	Real Fresh Milk (Reduced/Regular) \$2.19 /CASE	Enfamil Premium Lipil 16x8oz. RTF \$41.99 /CASE	Caprisun Drinks 177ml. \$2.99 /BOX	Miller Lite Beer 12pcs./pack (warm only) \$24.00 /CASE
Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only \$13.99	Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only) \$12.99	Kool Aid Jammer 177ml. \$2.99 /BOX	Pepsi 330ml Warm Only All Flavors \$13.99 /CASE	Budweiser/Budlight 24/Case Warm Only \$28.99 3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1	

GCA: 25 years of 'Building a Strong Foundation'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy, a premier educational institution in the Northern Marianas, has reached a significant landmark in history as it celebrates 25 years of providing educational and faithful services to students on the islands.

Raymond Kinsella, senior pastor and board chair of GCA, said in an interview that the school commemorates the anniversary when they assumed administration in 1986.

Before then, GCA was under the tutelage of Saipan Baptist Temple pastor Dr. David McClure, said Kinsella who moved to the island only in 1985.

"I, at that time, had been going around looking for a piece of property to start a Christian school," Kinsella recounted.

McClure, who got wind of Kinsella's pursuit, offered him to assume administration of GCA in March 1986.

According to Kinsella, God provided them the amount they needed to take over GCA "just like that."

It was a scripture in the gospel of John, Kinsella said, that communicated to him what to do, which is to "lift up your eyes and look at the fields for they are already right for the harvest... others have done the hard work, and you have entered into their labor."

"For me, it's just a miracle... I knew there was something behind this, that God was doing something very special," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

With a starting enrollment of 55 students in 1986, GCA has succeeded in having more students whose lives have been im-



Students of Grace Christian Academy walk past a giant banner of the school's anniversary as they leave the chapel Tuesday morning. GCA is celebrating its 25th anniversary in the Marianas with the theme "Building a Strong Foundation."

SAES kindergarten registration starts May 2

San Antonio Elementary School kindergarten student registration for school year 2011-2012 begins May 2, 2011 through May 27, 2011 from 8am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. Please submit your child's registration to the SAES registrar located at the

main office.

Kindergarten student applicants must be 5 years of age on or before Aug. 31, 2011. The following documents are required to be enrolled: Birth certificate, school entrance health certificate (updated), current school accident/ health

pacted "with the love of Jesus." During the island's economic boom, GCA had 740 students under its wing.

With 275 currently enrolled students, GCA has flourished to become an institution that offers not just excellent academic program but also spiritual growth for its community.

"You see, all of the excellence has been wonderful but our primary reason—what brought all of us as missionaries, from the maintenance to the president—we're all here for one reason and that is God has poured out His love in our lives, and He has made it very real," said Kinsella.

The senior pastor added that by coming together, God changed each one of them in every way. "We want to share that, the reality of a living God who can change and transform and make life full."

To benefit from living life to the fullest, Kinsella said the answer comes from one's relationship with God.

"If we can start there, we can then begin the process of bringing God into the formula of life. It's no longer living to get rich, to survive. No. I'm living to glorify God. It changes everything. It changes the whole perspective," he said.

GCA, Kinsella said, is all about glorifying God by taking

insurance/ medical (updated), map of residence, and legal adoption/ guardian document) if applicable (CNMI/U.S. court issued).

San Antonio Elementary School zone includes San Antonio Village and Afetna Village. (PR)

one's gifts and talents to honor Him. "We want to be able to say, 'Thank you Lord for giving us the privilege and the honor of being a part of what we did here. You deserve all the honor and the glory.'"

Kinsella acknowledged GCA's capable staff who have been "very good stewards of everything that the Lord has entrusted to us and they've kept us afloat all these years."

Anniversary activities

The theme for this year's celebration is "Building a Strong Foundation."

To celebrate GCA's silver anniversary, Kinsella said they invited pastor Eric Angeles to be their special speaker during the Spiritual Emphasis Week from April 27 to May 1.

Angeles, who is also celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary, worked for GCA for five years before he became a pastor in Los Angeles. "While he was

here, he was very instrumental in the growth of the school and the church," said Kinsella.

Principal Marsha Owens said they will have a big carnival event for the GCA community on April 29. Students will have "Casual for a Cause" attire fundraising to purchase bus transportation for the students.

"It's building a strong foundation for our children academically, socially, physically, and above all, spiritually," she said.

Owens said GCA feels honored to be a part of the island community which has embraced the school for 25 years.

When asked how she sees GCA another 25 years from now, Owens replied, "We pray that it's thriving, succeeding, and that our mission to instill these foundations are displayed in the daily lives of our students as they work, as they are a part of this whole island community."

Three Marianas employers are semifinalists of DoD Employer Support Freedom Award

ARLINGTON, Va.—The Department of Defense announced three Guam-CNMI employers have been selected as semifinalists for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Freedom Award is the DoD's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of their employees serving in the Guard and Reserve. Guam-CNMI's semifinalists stood out for their support of military employees as nationwide nominations for the Freedom Award rose 64 percent over last year.

Among the 148 semifinalists are CNMI Public School System, Saipan; Galaide Group, LLC, Tamuning; and Hilton Guam Resort and Spa, Tumon Bay.

These Guam-CNMI employers distinguished themselves from a pool of 4,049 nominations submitted by service members in 2011. Employers chosen as semifinalists support their Guard and Reserve employees through a variety of formal and informal initiatives, including providing the difference between military and civilian salary during deployments, continuation of full benefits, sending care packages and supporting the families of employees fulfilling military obligations.

"Our nation's ability to rely on the Guard and Reserve through nearly 10 years of war and during historic natural disasters is made possible by the tremendous support of employers," said ESGR National Chair James G. Rebholz. "The employers selected as semifinalists have distinguished themselves by going above and beyond what the law re-

quires, and I want to thank them for their critical support on behalf of our service members and our nation."

A national review board will narrow the group of 148 semifinalists to 30 finalists for the Freedom Award. Then, a national selection board comprised of senior defense officials, business leaders and prior awardees will select the 15 recipients for the 2011 Freedom Award. The DoD is expected to announce the finalists in May and the award recipients in early summer. The 2011 recipients will be honored in Washington, D.C. at the 16th Annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Ceremony on Sept. 22, 2011. Last year's recipients met privately with Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates prior to the ceremony.

"We are very proud of these three local employers who were selected amongst 19 nominations on Guam and in the CNMI," said David Sablan, state chair for the ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee. "It was not easy, but the support they've given to their reservists went above and beyond what's required of the law and made them stand out. Their selection as national semifinalists proves that even on our small islands, we stand toe-to-toe with other employers nationwide."

The Guam-CNMI Committee honored 32 local employers and supporters during the 2nd Annual Employer Awards Banquet on Saipan on March 12 and the 3rd Annual Employer Awards Gala on Guam on April 8. (PR)

WEEKEND SPECIALS

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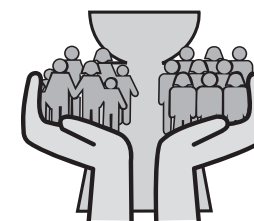
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Community Guidance Center
Guma' Ina' Ayuda Imwaal Alillis
(Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services)



PROJECT BRABU

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Department of Public Health Community Guidance Center (CGC) Prevention Unit - Project Brabu is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds, through the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) for eligible communities in the CNMI to apply. This project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Details of the grant and funds available are listed below.

I. Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG): FY2010 \$400,000

The planning and implementation of this grant award will focus on four primary goals:

- 1.) **Build Prevention Capacity and Infrastructure in the CNMI**
- 2.) **Prevent the Initiation of and Reduce Substance Abuse, Including Childhood and Underage Drinking**
- 3.) **Reduce Substance Abuse-related Problems**
- 4.) **Evaluate All Activities**

The SPF SIG provides awarded communities with the opportunity to build and/or strengthen an effective and sustainable evidence-based prevention program that is responsive to the needs of the CNMI community. Community programs are required to implement evidence-based prevention programs focused on the following priorities that have been determined by Project Brabu and the State Epidemiological Workgroup (SEW):

- 1) **Underage Drinking, and/or**
- 2) **Drinking and Driving**

This grant award requires a **Strategic Prevention Framework** to help guide communities toward successful program management process following the five steps below:

- 1) **Assessment:** Accurately assess community problems, assets, and resources;
- 2) **Capacity:** Describe current capacity and/or plans to build capacity;
- 3) **Planning:** Develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan;
- 4) **Implement:** Identify the evidence-based program, policy or practice to be implemented;
- 5) **Evaluate:** Process and impact evaluation through monitoring and documentation of program implementation.

Under the SPF SIG, the assigned percentages are reflected for interested community prevention program applicants:

Approximately 50% of allotted funding to Innovative Programs/Projects
Approximately 30% of allotted funding to Education and Outreach Programs
Approximately 20% of allotted funding to Cultural and/or Faith-based Programs

The Project Brabu Advisory Council will make the final determination on applications to be awarded based on a point system. The grant application guidelines detail the information required and the points under each of the sections.

All completed applications must be submitted to the CGC Project Brabu's office on Saipan and the CGC Substance Abuse Prevention offices (Rota and Tinian) no later than 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 20, 2011.

Sub-Grant Application forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Project Brabu Office at the Gualo Rai Center, 3rd floor, Suite #304 (Saipan) or the CGC Substance Abuse Prevention offices on Rota and Tinian. Also, the application form and guidelines are available on the CGC website at www.cgcsn.net. For more information, please contact Mr. James Arriola at 323-6571/72 or jamesharriola@gmail.com (Saipan); Mr. Keith Nabors, Prevention Coordinator (Tinian) at 433-6572 or tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com; or Ms. Avery Hocog, Prevention Coordinator (Rota) at 532-6572 or avery_hocog@yahoo.com.

Pre application workshops are scheduled as follows: (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

- May 4 (Tinian), Tinian Mayor's Office
- May 5 (Saipan), Project Brabu Office, Gualo Rai Building, 3rd Floor Suite 304
- May 6 (Rota), Rota NMC Campus

Please register for these workshops by calling the noted contact coordinators on each island.

These workshops will provide on-site technical assistance in discussing the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) 5-step process, the sub grant components and requirements. The workshops are available to interested community members/agencies and are free of charge.

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
 Chairman, Advisory Council

/s/ Ms. Josephine Sablan
 Director, CGC and Project Brabu

Business

Economy likely slowed last quarter but better now

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy probably slowed in the first three months of this year as harsh winter weather and high oil prices hurt spending by consumers, builders and other businesses. But economists predict that was a temporary setback and growth will pick up over the rest of the year.

Thursday morning the government will release a new snapshot of the economy's health that is expected to show a 1.9 percent annual growth rate in the January-March quarter.

That would be much weaker than the 3.1 percent growth rate in the October-December quarter of 2010. And it would be the most sluggish growth since the spring of last year when fears about Europe's debt crisis caused the economy growth's to slow to a feeble 1.7 percent pace.

Looking ahead, economists predict consumers and businesses will spend more in the months ahead because gasoline prices, now averaging \$3.88 a gallon nationwide, will stabilize by the summer and drop to about \$3.50

by fall. Rising gas prices are taking up much of what Americans are pocketing from the Social Security payroll tax cut.

Economists in a new Associated Press survey predict the economy is growing at a 3.2 percent pace this quarter and that growth will steadily improve over the remainder of the year.

"Most of the factors that account for the slower growth in the first quarter appear to us to be transitory," Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said at a news conference Wednesday.

Keep on movin' on

Question: I've worked in the Human Resource field for a number of years. I work hard at my job and think that I do what I do well, but I sometimes feel overwhelmed—demands from the boss, employees with problems, and managers that cause, rather than solve, problems. Sometimes I don't have the answers and sometimes when I do, the answer doesn't satisfy either managers or employees. Do other HR types have the same problems?

The answer to that, my Friend, is a big resounding YES! In my various HR incarnations as HR director, OPM special advisor, and even now as a HR consultant, your statement could describe me—and most of my, both junior and senior, HR friends. So, I will address my answer not just to you, but to all of us in the HR field.

We all want to do our jobs well. So, what do we need to do to make sure that our efforts succeed and our HR programs run smoothly? Sometimes trying very hard and working to the best of our abilities is just not enough. Sometimes we do all of the things that we know how to do, and follow all of the steps, and success still eludes us. Problems still occur that weren't anticipated. The answers just aren't always there.

Simply said, this is just a fact of HR life. In a job-field like HR, employees count upon us to look out for their needs, and management expects us to assist in the smooth and productive operation of the business and, also, to keep them out of trouble. With all of these expectations pressing on us, as the HR persons, it becomes increasingly important, as we progress up the career ladder, to keep preparing ourselves to handle that unexpected problem, and to be able to satisfy both employees and management. Often the difficulty is not in what we are doing. Very often, even though we sincerely try to give our job our very best efforts, the problems occur as a result of something we didn't do, or in an area where we just didn't have enough knowledge. When did we update our job de-

HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 14 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.



scriptions? Have we finished that revision to the policy and procedure manual? Are we complying with the FLSA, FMLA, ADA, EEO, and OSHA requirements? Do we really know what they are and what they require? Are we doing employee training, orientation, performance ratings and other actions that don't always seem to be that important until they become a problem? How are our writing skills, our communication skills, our client service skills? The list can go on and on.

So, what do we do about it? What we don't do is "keep on keepin' on," cause just doing what we're doing won't work. Neither the big world or the HR world stands still.

The big questions are: 1) Are we keeping ourselves well enough informed, trained and educated to ensure that we are capable of handling all of the complex aspects of our jobs? 2) What should each of us be doing to make the answer to question (1) a "YES?" The answer to the first question is one that only each of us knows about ourselves. To the second, the answer lies in continuing education, training programs, seminars, professional reading, involvement in professional organizations, interaction with fellow professionals, social and community involvement, and constantly taking on new challenges. Each of these provides a means to enhance our professional capabilities and to increase our creativity. We must commit ourselves to an ongoing program of personal development that will enable us to meet, today and tomorrow, the constantly increasing expectations of a human resource career.

There are lots of good HR examples here in the CNMI. One HR professional took time away from personal life and family for study, took the risk of personal and professional embarrassment for possible failure—and attained both the Senior Professional and Global Professional in Human Resources certifications in one year. Another, in the past year devoted time to SHRM Board membership, assists in judging student NJFL/NFL/Thespian competitions, while working to improve HR systems and programs in a major company. Others participate on public boards and commissions, assist in community and charitable programs, mentor and assist other HR professionals. There is no lack of good examples—you might be one—and there is no reason that we shouldn't all be.

So—seek self-improvement. Strive to be the very best you can be—the only failure would be in not making the effort. Get involved.

If you are not a Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) member—JOIN!

If you don't have a knowledgeable HR mentor to help you with tough problems—FIND ONE!

If you have the opportunity to attend HR trainings, seminars and conferences—DO IT!

If you're not involved in something that helps the community—GET INVOLVED!

and
If you are not in HR, simply change the HR acronym to your field—MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU!

So—don't "keep on keepin' on," keep on movin' on!

Nation

Storms kill 77 around South, including 61 in Ala.



A tornado moves through Tuscaloosa, Ala. Wednesday, April 27, 2011.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP)—A wave of tornado-spawning storms strafed the South on Wednesday, splintering buildings across hard-hit Alabama and killing at least 77 people in four states.

Some 61 people died in Alabama alone, including 15 in Tuscaloosa when a massive tornado barreled through the area. Sections of the city that's home to the University of Alabama have been destroyed, the mayor said, and the city's infrastructure was devastated.

Farther north, a nuclear power plant west of Huntsville lost power and was operating on diesel generators. In Mississippi, 11 deaths were reported, four people were killed in Georgia and

one in Tennessee.

In Tuscaloosa, news footage showed paramedics lifting a child out of a flattened home, with many neighboring buildings in the city of more than 83,000 also reduced to rubble. A hospital there said its emergency room had admitted about 100 people, but had treated some 400. Charts weren't even started for many patients because so many people were coming in at once. By midnight, only staff and patients were allowed inside.

"What we faced today was massive damage on a scale we have not seen in Tuscaloosa in quite some time," Mayor Walter Maddox told reporters, adding

that he expected his city's death toll to rise.

The storm system spread destruction Tuesday night and Wednesday from Texas to Virginia, and it was forecast to hit the Carolinas next before moving northeast.

President Barack Obama said he had spoken with Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley and approved his request for emergency federal assistance, including search and rescue assets.

"Our hearts go out to all those who have been affected by this devastation, and we commend the heroic efforts of those who have been working tirelessly to respond to this disaster," Obama said in a statement.

Hawaii government hands over Obama's birth records

HONOLULU (AP)—Until this week, Hawaii officials said they wouldn't release original birth records for anyone, under any circumstances. Even if it was President Barack Obama.

Then they heard from the president himself.

"I am writing to request two certified copies of my original certificate of live birth," the president wrote on White House letterhead, dated April 22.

State officials then decided to make an exception to a 2001 policy that prohibited anyone from getting a photocopy of an original birth certificate. They usually hand out computer-

generated versions.

Obama's waiver was the first since 2001. Officials said it would be the last.

By Wednesday, Obama had his copies, releasing them to dispel questions from so-called "birthers" and some Republicans who believe he wasn't born in the U.S. and therefore is ineligible to be president.

At a news conference, he pleaded for the long "side-show" to end. Many of the skeptics suggest Obama was actually born in Kenya, his father's home country, or Indonesia, where he spent a few years of his childhood.

Since Obama's election, the state was inundated with up to 20 weekly requests for various birth records related to Obama, although that number has since dropped significantly.

It got to the point where legislators passed a law allowing state officials to ignore the repeated requests.

In recent days, potential Republican presidential candidate and reality TV star Donald Trump began questioning why Obama had not ensured the original be released.

On April 22, Obama and his personal attorney wrote letters to Health Director Loretta Fuddy.



ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Father lit fire killing himself, 5 kids

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP)—Investigators said Wednesday they believe a Washington father who was sliding into financial ruin deliberately set a fire that blew up his home, killing himself and five of his children. "The fire was intentionally set," said police spokeswoman Kim Kapp. Tuan Dao is the only suspect identified. The Columbian newspaper reported that Tuan Dao's mother answered the door briefly on Wednesday and broke down in tears. "That was my son, you know?" she told the newspaper before closing the

door. The Columbian reported Dao's wife, Lori, and a 13-year-old daughter were away at the time of the fire.

Father gets criticized for NY mother killing kids

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y. (AP)—Jean Pierre didn't kill his kids. It was their mother, not their father, who took the three little children with her in a suicide plunge into the Hudson River this month. But Pierre, 26, has come under constant criticism. He's been vilified for cheating on Lashanda Armstrong, labeled

a deadbeat on child support and charged with being a danger to children, all of which his lawyers dispute. Armstrong's family decried Pierre's decision to hold a separate funeral and burial for the children, rather than the joint service they'd planned. One relative accused him of rigging the guest list at the funeral and even took exception to the way he mourned his children during the service. Experts say that because Armstrong, 25, of Newburgh died with the children April 12, a human impulse to blame someone has focused on the father.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

200 people flee Philippine village after landslide

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—More than 200 people have evacuated an unstable mountain village in the southern Philippines where 12 gold miners died and 10 others have been missing since a massive landslide last week, officials said Wednesday. Geologists say a 230-foot (70-meter) fissure on a mountain slope above Kingking village in Pantukan township threatens a new landslide. Dozens of shanties and bunkhouses have been demolished by owners and a government-paid crew on orders to discourage residents from returning, Mayor Celso Sarenas said. A downpour Wednesday halted the demolition of two remaining bunkhouses and the search for 10 still missing.

Thai, Cambodia clash for 7th day, death toll at 15

PHANOM DONGRAK, Thailand (AP)—Artillery fire boomed across the Thai-Cambodian frontier for a seventh day Thursday as fierce border clashes erupted again between the two neighbors and the death toll rose to 15. Loud explosions could be heard since dawn in

Phanom Dongrak, a village about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the border, an Associated Press reporter said. In Cambodia, field commander Col. Suos Sothea said the fighting was centering again around the ruins of two crumbling stone temples from the Khmer Empire at Ta Moan and Ta Krabey, which have been caught in crossfire since last Friday.

Bomb hits Pakistan navy bus in Karachi, 3 dead

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A roadside bomb tore through a bus taking Pakistani navy employees to work in Karachi on Thursday, killing three people in the third such attack in the country's largest city this week, authorities said. The blast showed the strength and reach of Islamist extremist networks in Pakistan, and came less than a week after the country's army chief publicly claimed that the "backbone" of the militants had been broken. Two of those killed were navy employees, while the third was a passer-by, said navy spokesman Salman Ali and Seemi Jamali, a doctor at the city's Jinnah Hospital. Eleven people were wounded.

Myanmar leader enlists Suu Kyi friend as adviser

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—

An economist who is close to pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Wednesday that he has been appointed to an advisory board by Myanmar's new president. The appointment of an associate of Suu Kyi to a high-level position in the new government is a surprise because the nominally civilian regime is dominated by her longtime foes in the military. Her party refused to take part in last year's army-arranged polls—charging they were unfair—and Suu Kyi remains the face of the country's opposition. The new president, Thein Sein, is a former general and was once prime minister under the junta. He is now the leader of the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, which won a huge majority in last November's general election that critics dismissed as rigged in favor of the army.

Taiwan official sentenced for spying for China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's Defense Ministry says a military court has sentenced a defense intelligence official to life in prison for leaking secrets to China. The ministry said in a statement Thursday that the court found that Lo Chi-cheng spied for China in exchange for money. It said the ruling could be appealed.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-025

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR POWER DIVISION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office spaces for CUC's Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The specification may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-025, Lease of Office Space, Power Division, T&D"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM, (ChST) local time on **May 20, 2011**. Late submission will not be considered.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) local time on May 9, 2011** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-020

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office spaces for CUC's Administration and Operation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The specification may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-020, Lease of Office Space CUC's Administration and Operation"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM, (CST) local time on **May 19, 2011**. Late submission will not be considered.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **May 9, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-028 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP), to supply electrical energy generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic System (SPS) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation SPS facilities that best fit the CUC's requirements.

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational SPS Generating Facilities. Selected IPP(s) will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in the Request for Proposal.

The Scope-of-Services will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offeror, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:00 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **May 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Power Plant No. 1 Administration Building, Lower Base Industrial Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-028 Solar Photovoltaic Generation"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **June 14, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

World

UN, European nations seek end to Syria violence

GENEVA (AP)—European nations summoned Syrian ambassadors in a coordinated demand that President Bashar Assad stop gunning down his people, and Germany said sanctions were possible if the crackdown did not ease.

The United States called on the U.N.'s top human rights body to approve an independent probe and recommend prosecution if violations of international human rights law are uncovered.

A draft resolution to be considered at an emergency session of the U.N. Human Rights Council on Friday demands an immediate end to Assad's efforts to crush the challenge to his rule. It also calls on Syria to lift its ban on nearly all foreign media and ease its restrictions on the Internet and telecommunications.

The U.N.'s Security Council, however, failed to agree on a statement condemning the violence, highlighting divisions among world powers over the ways to treat the deadly unrest.

On Wednesday, France, Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain told Syrian ambassadors that

they condemned the violence and said that Assad must change tactics, according to France's foreign ministry.

The German government said it would strongly support EU sanctions against the Syrian leadership and German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said an arms embargo, asset freezes and travel restrictions were possible.

"If there is not an immediate change of course by the Syrian leadership, the international community will have to come up with consequences—then sanctions against Syria will be inevitable," Westerwelle said.

The European condemnation was a significant personal blow to Assad, a British-educated self-styled reformer who has made a high priority of efforts to bring Syria back into the global mainstream, efforts that included hosting a series of visits from European diplomats.

It was far from clear, however, if Europe's shaming of Assad would have enough impact to moderate his government's brutal handling of the Syrian uprising.

"This is a revolutionary movement and if he doesn't

stop it, it will mean regime change and possibly civil war," said Joshua Landis, director of the University of Oklahoma's Center for Middle East Studies, who runs a blog called Syria Comment. "The threat of sanctions from Europe isn't going to be uppermost in his mind."

Landis said that European sanctions could strengthen the effect of U.S. trade and financial sanctions slapped on Syria in 2004 and 2006, mainly on counterterrorism grounds.

"It could help bring down the regime much more quickly," he said.

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Council based at the United Nations' European headquarters in Geneva agreed to a U.S. request for a special session Friday focused on Syria. It is unusual for the U.N.'s 47-nation council to agree to such a request singling out the behavior of one nation.

"It is entirely appropriate that the Human Rights Council condemn willful government violence against peaceful political protesters," the U.S. ambassador to the council, Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe, said.

Nigeria: Delayed vote looms in northern states

KADUNA, Nigeria (AP)—Two states in oil-rich Nigeria hit hard by religious rioting that killed at least 500 people following the country's presidential election will hold gubernatorial races Thursday. Whether the public emerges from ruined neighborhoods to vote amid burned churches and mosques remains another question.

Bauchi and Kaduna states in Nigeria's Muslim north will hold the local races after the majority of the country voted Tuesday in the polls. Initial results released Wednesday showed Nigeria's ruling People's Democratic Party lost at least two states to opposition parties, while taking Kano state back in the north. However, observ-

ers complained about ballot box thefts while violence accompanied the polls in Africa's most populous nation.

Though these elections were better than previously marred ones carried out in the 12-year-old democracy, the troubles showed Nigeria still faces challenges in holding credible elections.

"You see, in this country, democracy is premature," said Abdullah Fanap, 68, who voted Tuesday in the rural village of Yelwa in Plateau state. "Here in the north, we have a long way to go."

The gubernatorial races carry tremendous importance because governors represent the closest embodiment of power

many ever see in a nation of 150 million people. The positions provide many politicians with personal fiefdoms where oil money sluices into unwatched state coffers that exceed those of neighboring nations.

In Kaduna, 111 miles (180 kilometers) away from the country's capital of Abuja, the state's Christian governor faces a challenge from a Muslim opposition already emboldened by presidential results showing the region voted against the People's Democratic Party. Allegations over voter fraud, as it became clear President Goodluck Jonathan, a Christian, won the election, sparked the violence that engulfed the city and destroyed villages in its rural pasturelands.

two weeks into his tenure.

Renegade warlord killed in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—State television said renegade warlord Ibrahim "IB" Coulibaly, a two-time coup plotter who began the pro-democracy battle for Abidjan, was killed in fighting Wednesday night with one-time allies turned enemy. He died after his top aide said Coulibaly's troops were waiting for U.N. peacekeepers to disarm them. A commander for Defense Minister Guillaume Soro said Coulibaly appeared to have killed himself rather than surrender when his troops seized Coulibaly's stronghold in Abidjan's poor neighborhood

of Abobo on Wednesday night.

5 Colombian police killed in presumed rebel attack

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Five Colombian police officers were killed and two wounded when suspected leftist rebels attacked two police posts in different regions, authorities said Wednesday. Three officers died and three civilians were wounded Tuesday night in a car-bomb blast targeting a police station in the southwestern town of Jambalo followed by two hours of shelling by homemade mortars, the regional police commander, Gen. Orlando Pineda, told The Associated Press. Fifteen adjoining homes were damaged.

Off The Wall

International judge rules against lawyers' wigs



In this April 8, 2011 file photo Kenyan Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, back row left, Cabinet secretary Francis Muthaura, front row left, and former police chief Mohammed Hussein Ali, front row second right, appear at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands.

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Hair today, gone tomorrow.

A judge has asked lawyers to shed their wigs next time they appear before her at the International Criminal Court.

A handful of attorneys appeared Monday in traditional black gowns and white horsehair wigs for a preliminary hearing in a case dealing with violence after Kenya's disputed 2007 presidential election.

Group reports record trash haul from NJ beaches

SANDY HOOK, N.J. (AP)—A record amount of trash was picked up along New Jersey beaches last year, including a kitchen sink.

Clean Ocean Action has been doing beach sweeps for 25 years and says in a report to be released Tuesday that more than 475,000 pieces of litter were removed from the shoreline last year.

They included a bag of heroin, a 10-gallon gas tank, five pairs of underwear, a duck caller and a plastic cow, in addition to the sink.

There also were four televisions, a plastic Easter egg



In April 18, 2011 photo, a toy lays next to a crab leg on the beach in Sandy Hook, N.J.

with \$3 in it, a fire extinguisher, a toilet seat lid and an MP3 player.

Also found were 84 whole

tires, nearly 1,400 aerosol cans and more than 1,300 strands of fishing line, which can kill sea life that gets tangled in it.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Sign swiped at Ohio home where Superman created

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Man of Steel may have fallen victim to scrap metal thieves in Cleveland. A historical marker has been stolen near the house where two high school classmates created the Superman character in 1933. The neighborhood's development corporation tells police a hacksaw was used to remove the plaque from atop a pole two weeks ago. The Plain Dealer newspaper reports that the aluminum marker may have been swiped because its coloring led the culprits to think it was bronze, a popular target of scrap thieves. The city installed the plaque eight years ago. Officials say it will be replaced.

Pa. police find bull semen thought to be stolen

COUDERSPORT, Pa. (AP)—Police in north-central Pennsylvania say they've solved the case of the missing bull semen. Authorities in Sweden Township, near Coudersport, say a package containing 1,770 units

of the valuable agricultural product was reported missing from a residence where it was to be delivered on April 2. Police now tell the Bradford Era newspaper that it was never stolen. Rather, a UPS driver left the package at the home and then returned to retrieve it after realizing it shouldn't have been delivered without someone signing for it. Township police Chief Bryan Phelps says the package was in a UPS warehouse and has since been delivered. The township is about 140 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

Lost goat wanders into Idaho music store

AMMON, Idaho (AP)—Stop me if you've heard this one: A goat walks into a music store. It sounds like the start of a bad joke, but that's exactly what happened at the Piano Gallery in the southeastern Idaho town of Ammon. KIFI-TV reports the goat followed a woman and her child into the store on Monday. Maybe it was looking for some sheeet music. Clerk Lorri Bridges says the goat was just adorable. The staff corralled it in a bathroom

until animal control arrived. The goat, dubbed Beethoven for its apparent love of music, is being held at the Idaho Falls Animal Shelter. If it isn't claimed, someone is ready to adopt it.

Ariz. sheriff seeks votes on 'Mugshot of the Day'

PHOENIX (AP)—The Arizona sheriff known for dressing inmates in pink underwear and feeding them green baloney is inviting people to choose the most popular jail booking photos posted on his website. Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio (ar-PY'-oh) allows online users to browse through the photos and then vote on their favorites that will be highlighted on a "Mugshot of the Day" section. The top picks so far aren't unexpected: They're the most disheveled, unusual looking people among those booked into the downtown Phoenix jail. Arpaio says he hopes the increased Web traffic will highlight the work of his employees. He also says more crimes may be uncovered if the public can view the photos.

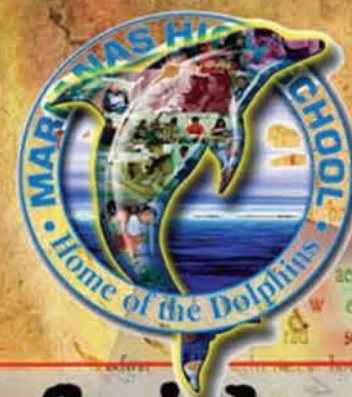
WORLD BRIEFS

Ex-Costa Rican prez sentenced to 5 years for graft

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—A former Costa Rican president who briefly served as chief of the Organization of American States was convicted of corruption charges Wednesday and sentenced to five years in prison. Capping a yearlong trial, a judge found Miguel Angel Rodriguez guilty of instigating corruption but absolved him of illegal enrichment, citing reasonable doubt. He was also barred from any government jobs for 12 years. Rodriguez, 71, was president in 1998-2002. He became OAS president in 2004 but the corruption scandal forced him to resign

MHS PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION MEGA-MEETING

MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL



The shaping of ideas

DATE: MAY 7TH SATURDAY

FROM 9:00 AM TO 3:00PM THIS IS IT!

AT THE MHS GYMNASIUM

If you've never come to a PTA meeting, if you've never known what it's like for your child to attend school on a 40 year old campus...you'll want to come to this meeting.

Marianas High School, under the leadership of Mr. Craig H. Garrison as Principal, is already undergoing significant change. Come to this PTA meeting and find out what's planned for your child's school and the educational program.

**Don't miss this opportunity to witness the change!
It's happening now...we need you to be a part of it.**

**See the improvements, hear the testimony, listen as Mr. Garrison tells us the truth about what is happening at MHS and what the future of education looks like for our children. Envision our future campus as he reveals through video and powerpoint technology the plans for the New Performing Arts Theatre, Expanded Parking Access, The Center for Digital Media and Visual Art, The PSS Center for Advanced Placement Studies, The New Dolphin BAND program, the New PSS Alternative Education Center, and more...all of which will begin during this year so don't miss it!...
you've got to come to this event!**

Life & Style

'American Idol' finalists croon Carole King tunes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scotty McCreery won back some friends on "American Idol."

After receiving criticism from the show's judges for playing it too safe last week, the deep-voiced 17-year-old country crooner of Garner, N.C., enticed the panel with his buttery rendition of "You've Got a Friend" on the Fox talent competition's evening of Carole King tunes Wednesday. It was 22-year-old rocker James Durbin of Santa Cruz, Calif., who was dubbed a front-runner though.

Randy Jackson proclaimed that Durbin "just might win the whole thing" after his electric reworking of "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow." Steven

Tyler didn't say he saw Haley Reinhart, the bluesy 20-year-old college student of Wheeling, Ill., winning the contest, but he did claim that he "just saw God" after Reinhart's upbeat rendition of "Beautiful."

"You have one of the best voices in the competition," Jennifer Lopez told Reinhart.

Jacob Lusk and Lauren Alaina were praised for going outside their comfort zones. Tyler lauded a plaid-clad Lusk, the 23-year-old spa concierge of Compton, Calif., for "shaking his tail feathers" on "Oh No Not My Baby," while Lopez hailed Alaina, the 16-year-old high school student of Rossville, Ga., for reaching for the high notes

on "Where You Lead."

"I don't know if I love the song," Jackson told Alaina. "What I did love is that you came up there with a vengeance."

Casey Abrams might want to take a cue from Lusk. Lopez told Abrams, the 20-year-old eccentric film camp counselor of Idyllwild, Calif., that she wanted him to "loosen up your legs a little bit" after his jazzy performance of "Hi-De-Ho," popularized by Blood, Sweat and Tears. Tyler was more enthused, informing Abrams that it "made my scalp itch, it was so good."

The top six finalists were also paired for duets of King



From left, "American Idol" contestants James Durbin, Casey Abrams, Jacob Lusk, and Scotty McCreery arrive at the champagne launch of the fifth annual BritWeek in Los Angeles, Tuesday, April 26, 2011.

classics. Abrams and Reinhart brought their growling chemistry to "I Feel the Earth Move," while McCreery successfully backed up a soaring Alaina dur-

ing "Up on the Roof." Durbin and Lusk's awkward attempt to out-wail each other on "I'm Into Something Good" was deemed something bad.

"Where were you going with all that?" a puzzled Tyler asked the duo.

One of the six finalists will be dismissed Thursday.

Jason Aldean leads CMT Awards with 4 nominations

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The party just keeps rolling for country music star Jason Aldean.

Long left out of major award consideration, Aldean's recent tear continued Wednesday morning when he received a leading four 2011 CMT Music Awards nominations. The singer's video for "My Kinda Party" earned nods for CMT's top award, video of the year, and male video of the year.

Six acts trail Aldean by one with three nominations apiece: Lady Antebellum, Rascal Flatts, Zac Brown Band, Taylor Swift, Miranda Lambert and The Band Perry. All are nominees for video of the year. Seven others received two nominations apiece.



In an April 3, 2011 file photo, Jason Aldean arrives at the 46th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

The nominations for the awards, which are in their 10th year, were announced Wednesday morning on NBC's "Today" show. Fans can now

decide the winners in 10 categories on the video channel's website and will choose the video of the year winner during the June 8 awards telecast.

'Vampire Diaries' cast spooked by haunted set

NEW YORK (AP)—Fans may get a chill watching the CW's "Vampire Diaries," but star Nina Dobrev says the cast and crew were the ones spooked while filming at the Gaither Plantation in Covington, Ga.

Dobrev says several creepy, unexplained events took place during the 2010 shoot, including a piano seemingly playing on its own. "The ADs (assistant directors) started screaming, 'Stop! Whoever that is stop the music. We're rolling. Cameras are on,'" Dobrev says. But the actress says when they walked

in the room with the piano no one was there.

At another point, the lights began flickering while she was in the bathroom. At first she thought her co-stars were playing tricks on her but she says, again, no one was nearby and "the lights were just spontaneously coming on and off." Dobrev, who plays characters Elena and Katherine in the vampire drama filmed in the Atlanta area, says everyone had a collective "weird feeling" at the site even though "nobody could pinpoint" why.

She says previously she didn't believe in the supernatural, "but all of a sudden it was kind of happening and it was kind of weird."

There have been numerous reports of ghost sightings and strange events at the 159 year-old plantation—enough to lead another television show, "Ghost Hunters," to investigate. Jason Hawes, lead investigator of the Syfy show, says that during a 2009 visit to the plantation, his team found compelling evidence of "intelligent" paranormal activity.

Western artist Harry Jackson dies at age 87

CODY, Wyo. (AP)—Wyoming artist Harry Jackson, known for both his works of abstract expressionism and images of the American West, has died at the age of 87.

Funeral home officials told the Casper-Star Tribune that Jackson died Monday at the veterans' hospital in Sheridan.

He was born in Chicago in 1924 but made his way to Wyoming in his early teens to work on a ranch. He was a combat artist for the Marines during World War II.

His paintings and sculptures can be found at museums including the Metropolitan Muse-

um of Art and the Smithsonian American Art Museum and in collections owned by the Saudi Arabian royal family and Queen Elizabeth.

The Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Wyoming contains the largest museum collection of his work in the United States.

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\$5.75 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$5.75 Military with Valid I.D.

TIMEWARP TUESDAY \$5.75 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

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For Friday, April 29th through Thursday, May 5th, 2011
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK



NOW SHOWING



Fast Five

Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
 Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Director Justin Lin (The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift, Fast & Furious) returns to the helm for this adrenaline-charged sequel reuniting series stars Vin Diesel and Paul Walker for their biggest thrill ride yet. With the police in hot pursuit and wanted fugitive Dom (Diesel) in tow, Brian (Walker) and Mia (Jordana Brewster) make their way to Rio, and realize they've run out of luck. In order to earn their freedom, they'll have to pull off their biggest job yet.



Prom

Friday & Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Aimee Teegarden, Thomas McDonell
 Comedy drama • Rated PG

Synopsis

A group of teenagers find their lives intersecting and their futures taking shape as they prepare for the most pivotal event of their high school careers. At first Nova Prescott (Aimee Teegarden) is infuriated at a classmate (Thomas McDonell) who nearly destroys her plans for prom. But the closer the big day gets, the more she realizes that he may be the perfect date.



Madea's Big Happy Family

Friday & Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

Tyler Perry, Loretta Devine
 Comedy drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

When her five grown-up children fail to answer her call for a family gathering, exasperated mother Shirley calls on outspoken force of nature Madea to see that everyone comes together to discuss some rather important issues in this filmed stage play written and directed by Tyler Perry. With everyone finally assembled thanks to Madea's tenacity, Shirley addresses some important family secrets, reveals that she's in the midst of a financial crisis, and engages her sons and daughters in a serious talk about drugs.



Beastly

Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

Alex Pettyfer, Vanessa Hudgens
 Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Rio

Friday & Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:35
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20

Anne Hathaway, will.i.am
 Children's/family • Rated G



Scream 4

Friday & Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25

Neve Campbell, David Arquette
 Horror • Rated R



Hanna

Friday & Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:45 9:45
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:45
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:45

Saoirse Ronan, Cate Blanchett
 Thriller • Rated PG 13

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Paris Hilton, boyfriend accosted at LA courthouse

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police arrested a man who tried to grab the boyfriend of Paris Hilton as the couple arrived Wednesday at a courthouse to testify against a suspect in an attempted break-in at her home last year.

An Associated Press photographer and reporters interviewing the couple saw the man appear to get a hand on the neck of Cy Waits before being seized by a bodyguard and taken away.

James Rainford, 36, was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor battery on a person and was being held on \$20,000 bail.

The incident occurred as Hilton and Waits walked into a Superior Court building in Van Nuys to testify against Nathan Parada, 31, who is charged with attempted first-degree felony burglary.

Hilton posted on her Twitter account that a “psycho intruder just punched Cy in the back of the head as we were walking into the court house.”

She and Waits testified about being awakened by a man banging on a window at her home last August. They left the courthouse without further incident.

Police Detective Kevin Romine testified that Parada told him and his partner that he had left a halfway house in Redlands, Ca-



Cy Waits, boyfriend of Paris Hilton, left, reacts as he is grabbed by an assailant while walking towards court with Paris Hilton, right, Wednesday April 27, 2011 in Los Angeles.

lif., several days before going to Hilton's home with the intention of robbing it.

Parada told police he found the Hollywood Hills house after purchasing a map of stars' homes, then stayed outside for several hours before going to a back window and pounding on it with the butt of a knife, Romine said.

During his interview, Parada told detectives that he planned to steal whatever he could carry, sell it and move to a deserted island, Romine testified.

Parada also told police that he had not taken his antidepressant medication for several days before going to Hilton's home, the detective said.

He said Parada knew there

was at least one person inside but didn't plan to hurt anyone.

Police were told Hilton's home was targeted because she is famous and she was from a rich family, Romine said.

Deputy District Attorney Kaveh Faturechi said he expects to conclude his case Thursday. Parada could face a maximum of three years in prison if convicted.

Star magazine apologizes, settles Holmes lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katie Holmes has settled her lawsuit with the publishers of *Star* magazine over a cover story that insinuated she was a drug addict.

The magazine published an apology to the actress Wednesday on the cover and inside its May 9 issue, saying it “did not intend to suggest that Ms. Holmes was a drug addict or was undergoing treatment for drug addiction.”

“In a recent issue of *Star*, we published headlines about Katie Holmes that could be read to suggest that she was addicted to drugs,” the apology read. “*Star* apologizes to Ms. Holmes for any misperception and will be making a substantial donation to charity on Ms. Holmes' behalf for any harm that we may have caused.”

Holmes' publicist, Ina Treciokas, said that American Media Inc. gave a sizable donation to Dizzy Feet Foundation, an organization that



brings dance to underprivileged children.

Holmes sued the publishers last month for a January magazine cover with a headline that read “Katie DRUG SHOCKER!” At the time, the magazine stood by its story and said it expected the case to be dismissed.

Financial terms of the settlement were not disclosed. Holmes had been seeking more than \$50 million in damages.

The 32-year-old actress said she accepts the apology and was pleased the lawsuit has been resolved.

“With this dispute out of the way, I look forward to once again focusing my attention on my family and career,” she said.

In this Jan. 16, 2011 file photo, actress Katie Holmes is pictured before announcing nominations for the 68th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Prince William, Kate at final wedding rehearsal

LONDON (AP)—Prince William and Kate Middleton have arrived at Westminster Abbey for a final wedding rehearsal.

St. James's Palace says that the couple, the bride's parents and Prince Harry are at the abbey with senior clergy for the private rehearsal.

Wednesday's rehearsal will be their last chance to run through the service before their wedding Friday.

A convoy of cars arrived at the abbey as hundreds of excited tourists and dozens of broadcasting crew looked on.

Middleton's parents, Michael and Carole, drove to London from their Berkshire home earlier Wednesday to base themselves at the Goring Hotel. They will be staying there for the next three nights.

The couple had held rehearsals before, but this is the first time they did inside the abbey.

SNL's Jason Sudeikis to host MTV Movie Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Jason Sudeikis will host the 20th annual MTV Movie Awards.

The “Saturday Night Live” cast member will host the June 5 show. The awards will take place at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif., and air live on MTV.

MTV President Stephen Friedman says in a statement that “smart and funny is the new rock ‘n’ roll” for the network's audience, and that Sudeikis fits that combination.

The 35-year-old Sudeikis is in his sixth season on NBC's “SNL.” He co-stars in the upcoming comedy “Horrible Bosses.”



In this Feb. 23, 2011 file photo, actor Jason Sudeikis arrives at the premiere of the feature film “Hall Pass” in Los Angeles.

Dating his late wife's nurse distresses widower's family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My husband's darling mother died of cancer last summer. During the last month of her illness she was confined to bed, so we hired a nurse, “Lois,” to cover the night shift.

The day after the funeral, my husband's father started calling Lois. Dad swore they were “just friends,” but continued pursuing her despite our strong disapproval.

Two months later, they were dating. Last Thanksgiving, our first holiday without Mom, he cancelled plans to be with us and the grandkids to spend it with “friends”—guess who? On Christmas it was the same story.

This has hit my husband hard. Dad and Mom were married for 50 years. We have always had a close family, particularly at holiday time. Are we wrong to feel that Dad and Lois are disrespecting Mom's memory and to feel hurt and angry?

GRIEVING IN MINNESOTA

DEAR GRIEVING: Please accept my sympathy for your family's loss. While it may appear your father-in-law jumped quickly into a relationship, it could be he grieved during the time his wife was ill and has concerns that his own time may be limited, so he wants to enjoy life while he can.

As to missing the holidays, being there with his wife of 50 years conspicuously missing may have been more than he could face. So please, try to be understanding because I'm sure your mother-in-law's death has been painful for all of you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After having a stroke, my mother spent the last few years of her life in a wonderful nursing facility. She was an accomplished gardener and enjoyed sharing her bounty. Instead of sending her a fresh flower bouquet for Mother's Day, I'd have some potted tomato plants delivered to her nursing home. On her death bed last year, she reminded us to water her tomato plants. Sadly, those plants outlived her.

I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to her memory than to encourage your readers to provide living vegetable plants for their senior relatives. Most nurseries or florists will accommodate your request and, perhaps, could be persuaded to donate a plant or two to a local senior care center.

The joy of nurturing a living plant will continue through the summer.

CAROLE IN SAN CLEMENTE

DEAR CAROLE: What a sweet idea. Your mother appears to have been a generous and caring woman, and your letter shows the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When I was in high school, I was very popular and part of a large social group. That was three years ago. Since graduation, I have been dealing with an anxiety disorder. It has reached the point where I can no longer work, go to school or have much of a social life. I am currently seeking treatment.

Whenever I'm in touch with someone I was close to in high school, I am always asked where I'm working now or what school I'm attending. I feel embarrassed because of my disorder and often I don't respond because I don't know what to say. Any ideas?

SPEECHLESS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR SPEECHLESS: You could say that you haven't been well and needed to take some time to recover — or, if you don't want to reveal that much, say, “I decided to take some time to find myself,” which is common and sufficiently euphemistic. And the surest way to find treatment for your anxiety disorder would be to tell your family doctor you need to consult a mental health professional who specializes in anxiety disorders. Once you find one, you can quickly return to the mainstream of life.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby's Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,

vs.

NESTOR E. ESMAN,
Defendant.

**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT
NESTOR E. ESMAN:**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND
NOTIFIED** to file any answer you wish to
make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20)
days after service of this AMENDED
SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a
copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres,
Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan,
MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after
filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of
court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed
with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI
Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia,
Imwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box
500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be
prepared and signed for you by your attorney
and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger
or by mail. It is not necessary for you to
appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with
this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by
default pursuant to the court rules of the
above-entitled Court may be taken against
you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 14th day of April, 2011.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

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Alomar, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame
Minor wins doubles in Australia
Rondo, Celtics on to beat Spurs
Saipan Tribune Sports
36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011
32
31
By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roselyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.
Minor teamed up with fellow Pacific Islands member Amanda Korinibwa in the doubles event.
Curtis-McDonald
Wednesday
By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
EDITOR
WASHINGTON—D.C.—The Weather Channel predicted near-perfect weather for Jan. 3, the day in which the 112th Congress starts its first session.
In Washington, D.C., the day was sunny, with temperatures in the 60s and 70s.
In fact, it was chiller inside the U.S. Capitol when outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was preparing to hand over the gavel to the new speaker, John Boehner (R-Ohio).
Pelosi began enumerating the 111th Congress's accomplishments.

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Spurs avoid elimination with OT win



SAN ANTONIO (AP)

—Just 1.7 seconds is all that remained for Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker in what has been a wasted and humiliating dud of a playoff run.

An undrafted rookie didn't let them go down that quickly.

Catching the inbound pass with 1.7 seconds left, Gary Neal forced overtime with a spectacular 3-pointer in the face of O.J. Mayo as time expired, and the top-seeded San Antonio Spurs staved off elimination by stunning the Memphis Grizzlies 110-103 on Wednesday night.

"It felt good. I knew I had good legs going into it," Neal said. "It felt good. I followed through and it went in."

The eighth-seeded Grizzlies still lead the best-of-seven series 3-2. They will host the Spurs on Friday night, but left town knowing they missed a knock-out punch.

"They're down by three, you've got to run them off the 3. You can't let nobody shoot an open 3," Grizzlies forward Zach Randolph said. "You've got to contest the 3, you've got to deny the ball."

The straightaway 3-pointer was the second of two remarkable San Antonio baskets in the final 2.2 seconds of regulation. Manu Ginobili, who scored 33 points, hit the other with a long corner jumper while falling out of bounds in front of the Spurs bench, in what was originally ruled a 3.

A video replay confirmed Ginobili's left toe was on the line. That left the Spurs still trailing 95-94, and after two free throws by Randolph, San Antonio needed another miracle.

Ginobili? Parker? Duncan, in perhaps a repeat of his memorable tying 3-pointer with 3 seconds left against Phoenix in the 2008 playoffs, before the Spurs went on to a double-overtime win?

Nope.

They drew it up for Neal, a 26-year-old rookie and former European journeyman who the Spurs signed this season after giving him an audition on their summer league team.

"You really don't think about the magnitude of making or missing it, you just think about trying to get the best shot that you can get," said Neal, who finished with seven points. "It went in today, but I think it's the best shot I could have got in that situation."

Randolph led Memphis with 26 points and 11 rebounds. He scored 18 points in the fourth quarter and overtime, but the Spurs assured a Game 6 in the overtime behind Parker, who scored 6 of his 24 in the extra period.

Only eight teams in NBA history have ever come back from a 3-1 deficit. The Spurs, who were the NBA's winningest team for most of the season, are desperate to join that list in what may be their last good shot to win a fifth



Memphis Grizzlies' Marc Gasol, right, of Spain, is fouled by San Antonio Spurs' Antonio McDyess, left, during the fourth quarter of Game 5 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series Wednesday, April 27, 2011, in San Antonio.

championship in the Duncan era.

Memphis remains on the verge of becoming just the fourth No. 8 seed in NBA history to win a playoff series. Not since Golden State upset Dallas in 2006 has a No. 8 seed toppled a No. 1 in the first round.

Marc Gasol had 11 points and 17 rebounds for Memphis, while Mike Conley scored 20 points and Sam Young added 18.

Duncan began the game in vintage playoff form, looking keenly aware of the stakes. He scored 11 points in the first 9 1/2 minutes, but scored just two the rest of the way. He had 12 rebounds.

Randolph, whose 3-pointer at the end of the Game 3 win gave the Grizzlies the momentum, hit another big shot with 13.7 seconds left in regulation. His 18-footer over Antonio McDyess put Memphis ahead 93-91, prompting Randolph to put his finger to his lips, hushing the crowd.

But the Spurs weren't going down that quietly.

"Come on, we're on the road. It wasn't going to be easy," Grizzlies forward Shane Battier said. "And we needed 48 minutes. We didn't need 47 minutes and 59, 58 seconds and three-tenths. We needed the full 48 to get it done."

Only 2.2 seconds is all the time the Spurs needed to make not only two of the biggest shots in this series, but in the NBA playoffs so far this postseason.

First up was Ginobili who, after snatching the ball following a botched, up-for-grabs inbound pass, pivoted frantically to the corner in front of the Spurs bench and made a difficult shot while falling toward the baseline that initially looked like a 3-pointer.

The Spurs—and a crowd that included signs reading "The Dynasty Lives"—thought Ginobili's incredible fallaway tied the game. But after a lengthy video review, the officials reversed it.

That still left San Antonio down one point, and Randolph stretched the lead back to 97-94 with two free throws. So with their season on the line the Spurs turned to Neal to try and send the game to overtime.

Neal caught the inbound pass 3 feet behind the 3-point line, then squared up with Mayo running

toward him.

Heat 97, Sixers 91

In Miami, the day began with LeBron James making a playoff analogy out of breakfast, his way of saying the Miami Heat were focused on the first postseason challenge presented by the Philadelphia 76ers and nothing else.

Clear the table.

"Now," James said about 12 hours later, "we're preparing for lunch."

So this much is obvious: There will be some hunger Sunday af-

ternoon when Boston visits to open a series both teams wanted.

Dwyane Wade scored 26 points, Chris Bosh added 22 points and 11 rebounds, and the Heat advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals by topping Philadelphia 97-91 on Wednesday night and ousting the 76ers in five games, four of them of the grueling variety, perhaps none more nailbiting than the finale.

"We're going to be ready," Wade said. "Philly got us ready."

Mario Chalmers scored 20 points off the bench and James

finished with 16 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for Miami. Joel Anthony—who played 39 minutes without a single field-goal attempt—made a pair of critical free throws with 16.8 seconds left for the Heat.

Winners of a playoff series for the first time since the 2006 NBA finals, the Heat have little time to savor the winning flavor. Boston took three of four in the regular season, plus ended both Miami's season and James' stint with the Cleveland Cavaliers in the 2010 playoffs.

Thunder 100, Nuggets 97

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant matched his best playoff performance with 41 points, including the final nine for Oklahoma City, and the Thunder closed out their first-round series against the Denver Nuggets with a 100-97 victory in Game 5 on Wednesday night.

The Thunder overcame a nine-point deficit in the final 4 minutes, and Durant provided all the offense down the stretch to send the Oklahoma City franchise to its first playoff series win since it was still in Seattle in 2005.

Durant put the Thunder ahead to stay on two free throws with 46 seconds left. Serge Ibaka then swatted Nene's dunk attempt for his ninth block of the game.

Durant then added a 19-foot jumper to put the Thunder up 100-97 with 12 seconds left.

Durant blocked J.R. Smith's shot at the tie from the left wing, and Arron Afflalo missed one last attempt at a tying 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Afflalo, who missed the first two games of the series with a hamstring strain, led Denver with 15 points and Kenyon Martin added 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Judge denies NFL request to freeze lockout ruling



MINNEAPOLIS

(AP)—The NFL is falling behind in its court fight with the players over the future of the \$9 billion business.

The federal judge who lifted the lockout two days ago dealt another blow to the league late Wednesday, denying its request to put her ruling on hold pending appeals and guaranteeing more limbo for all 32 teams, thousands of players and millions of fans.

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson said the NFL had fallen short in proving a stay was warranted and dismissed its argument that it is facing irreparable harm because of her decision to end the 45-day lockout.

"The world of 'chaos' the NFL claims it has been thrust into—essentially the 'free-market' system this nation otherwise willfully operates under—is not compelled by this court's order," Nelson wrote.

And yet chaos there may be, perhaps as early as Thursday, the first day of the NFL draft.

James Quinn, a lawyer for the players, said free agency—the biggest immediate question for owners and players alike—should start immediately.

"We are evaluating the district court's decision and will advise our clubs (Thursday) morning on how to proceed," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said.

The NFL Players Association, now a trade group and not a union, accused the league of stalling.

"On the eve of one of the greatest fan events in sports, the players moved another step closer to bringing the fans football," spokesman George Atallah said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "Owners seem determined to prevent that from happening. The NFL owners are not litigating to protect the game. They're litigating to protect a lockout."

Nelson's ruling was not a

surprise, given her questioning of NFL attorney David Boies during an April 6 hearing and her 89-page order lifting the lockout. She wrote another 20 pages in her denial Wednesday, declaring the public's interest in the resumption of league operations.

The judge acknowledged that her decision will be appealed to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis, and Aiello said that step was being taken immediately. The appellate court is viewed as a more friendly venue to businesses like the league than the federal courts in Minnesota.

"We believe there are strong legal and practical reasons that support a stay and that the Court of Appeals should have an opportunity to address the important legal issues that will be presented," Aiello said.

Late Wednesday, the league had no rules in place, shelved since the collective bargaining agreement ended on March 11 and the NFL's first work stop-

page since 1987 began.

Nelson said that needn't be the case.

The judge said her order does not "obligate the NFL to enter into contracts" or oversee the league's "non-lockout conduct in general." She suggested that the NFL "make a decision about how to proceed and accept the consequences" of that choice and said she saw no evidence of "injury" to the league from the end of the lockout.

In saying the NFL could go about its business, Nelson used the league's own steps against it, citing the draft, the announcement of the 2011 schedule and even Commissioner Roger Goodell's proclamation that the NFL intends to play the full 16 games and the playoffs.

Nelson also pointed to the contract tenders teams issued to restricted free agents in March before the lockout, "treating them as if the league intended to operate with the 2010 rules in place."

Jones' 3 RBIs help Braves beat Padres



SAN DIEGO (AP)—Chipper Jones hit a two-run triple and finished with three RBIs as the Atlanta Braves beat San Diego 7-0 Wednesday, leaving Padres ace Mat Latos winless since September.

Jones moved out of a tie with Mickey Mantle and into sole possession of second place among switch-hitters with 1,512 RBIs. Hall of Famer Eddie Murray tops the list at 1,917.

Braves starter Tommy Hanson (3-3) struck out 10 and walked only one in seven innings and combined with two relievers on a four-hitter. The Padres were shut out for the major league-leading seventh time in 25 games, and for the third time on a seven-game homestand.

Phillies 8, Diamondbacks 4

At Phoenix, Jimmy Rollins homered and had three RBIs, and Cole Hamels pitched seven solid innings to help Philadelphia avoid a three-game sweep to Arizona.

Shane Victorino and Ryan Howard each homered, Placido Polanco had four of Philadelphia's 12 hits and scored three runs, and Ben Francisco had a two-run double.

That was more than enough

for Hamels (3-1) in his fourth straight solid start. The left-hander allowed three runs on four hits in seven innings.

Pirates 2, Giants 0

At Pittsburgh, James McDonald pitched six sharp innings for his first victory of the season to lead Pittsburgh.

McDonald (1-2) allowed four hits and four walks while striking out three, and Chris Snyder and Jose Tabata each singled in a run for the Pirates.

Mike Crotta, Joe Beimel, Chris Resop and Joel Hanrahan completed the five-hitter. Hanrahan recorded his seventh save in seven opportunities, getting Miguel Tejada to ground into a game-ending double play with runners on first and second.

Mets 6, Nationals 3

At Washington, Daniel Murphy delivered a game-leveling, pinch-hit homer in the eighth inning right after Jose Reyes was ruled out at third base on a disputed call, then added a two-run double in the ninth to help New York win its sixth straight.

In a seesaw game delayed 45 minutes at the start by rain, the Mets led 1-0, trailed 2-1, tied it at 2 in the eighth, fell behind 3-2 later that inning, then produced a four-run rally

in the ninth.

Cardinals 6, Astros 5

At Houston, Kyle Lohse pitched another gem, and Matt Holliday and Tyler Greene both homered as St. Louis held off a late rally by Houston.

Lohse (4-1) allowed four hits and pitched seven scoreless innings. Holliday had three hits and his solo shot to the Crawford Boxes in left field put St. Louis up 1-0 in the fourth inning.

Greene hit his first home run of the season with his one-out shot to left field that made it 2-0 in the fifth.

Dodgers 5, Marlins 4, 10 innings

At Miami, Andre Ethier extended his hitting streak to 24 games in the fourth inning, then homered in the 10th to help Los Angeles salvage the finale of the three-game series against Florida.

Ethier led off the 10th and homered on a 1-1 pitch from Brian Sanches (3-1), ending the right-hander's streak of 13 2-3 scoreless innings to start the season. Sanches, the Marlins' eighth pitcher, had allowed only one hit previously this year.

Reds 7, Brewers 6, 10 innings

At Milwaukee, Drew Stubbs hit a

solo homer in the 10th inning and Joey Votto drove in four runs to lead Cincinnati past Milwaukee.

Stubbs hit a sinker from Sergio Mitre (0-1) over the center-field wall to put the Reds ahead for good. Cincinnati, which squandered leads of 4-0 and 6-4, got a season-high 15 hits a day after managing just two in a 3-2 loss to the Brewers.

Aroldis Chapman (2-0) got out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth using 101 mph fastballs and pitched around a two-out single in the ninth.

Indians 7, Royals 2

At Cleveland, Orlando Cabrera's three-run double in the first inning set the Cleveland Indians on their way to a ninth successive home win, beating the slumping Kansas City Royals 7-2 in the American League on Wednesday.

Cabrera hit a bases-loaded double off Jeff Francis (0-3) as the Indians jumped to a 5-0 lead. That was all the support Cleveland starter Josh Tomlin (4-0) would need in sending Kansas City to its fifth straight loss.

Athletics 2, Angels 1, 10 innings

At Anaheim, Cliff Pennington opened the 10th inning with a

triple off a fielder's glove to lift Oakland over Los Angeles.

Former Angels closer Brian Fuentes returned in Oakland colors and inadvertently helped his old team by giving up the tying run in the bottom of the ninth.

Rangers 7, Blue Jays 6

At Arlington, Texas, Mitch Moreland led off the seventh inning with a tiebreaking home run and Texas hung on to edge Toronto.

Moreland sent a pitch from Octavio Dotel (1-1) over the center-field fence for his third homer of the season. Michael Young and Mike Napoli earlier had two-run doubles in Texas' six-run third.

Yankees 3, White Sox 1

At New York, Bartolo Colon looked like the ace of old, shutting down Chicago over eight crisp innings to steer New York to victory.

Colon (2-1) outpitched Mark Buehrle to give him two wins in two starts this season—his first in the majors since 2009.

The husky right-hander, who won the 2005 AL Cy Young Award for the Angels, signed a minor league deal in February but had a good spring training and was lifted to the majors as a reliever.

Mariners 10, Tigers 1

At Detroit, Erik Bedard pitched seven impressive innings for his first win since June 2009, helping Seattle crush Detroit.

Bedard (1-4), who missed last season following shoulder surgery, allowed just one run and issued no walks. Justin Smoak hit a three-run homer and drove in a career-high five runs for the Mariners.

Rays 8, Twins 2

At Minneapolis, Ben Zobrist tripled and drove in three runs as Tampa Bay overcame snowy conditions to beat Minnesota.

The cold weather didn't bother the boys from the Sunshine State, who moved over .500 for the first time this season. Wade Davis (3-2) allowed two runs and had five strikeouts in 6 2-3 innings for the Rays.

Orioles 5, Red Sox 4

At Baltimore, Derrick Lee had three hits and scored the tie-breaking run to help Baltimore edge Boston.

After blowing a 4-0 lead in the top of the eighth, Baltimore regained the lead in the bottom half against Daniel Bard (0-3). Nick Markakis singled and took second on a single by Lee. Both moved up on a passed ball before Markakis was thrown out.

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Docomo Pacific donates prizes for NMC Open

In support for higher education in the CNMI, Docomo Pacific presented a \$2,500 check and prizes worth \$2,500 to the Northern Marianas College Foundation for the 9th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament.

The \$2,500 worth of prizes

From left, Docomo Pacific retail operations manager Pauline Johnson and Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson, present NMC Foundation vice president Ivan Quichocho with a \$5,000 check in support of the NMC Foundation's 9th Annual Open Golf Tournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



include a Samsung Galaxy Tab and a Samsung Galaxy Captivate Droid phone and will be raffled off at the tournament.

"Docomo Pacific is pleased to be part of the NMC Foundation golf tournament this year," general manager James Nelson said. "Our company is proud to be a supporter of the NMC Foundation's mission to advance higher education for the people in the CNMI."

The 9th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament is the organization's signature event that aims to raise critical funds for the College's programs and services. The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization composed of vol-

unteers in the community, who are committed to improving and enhancing higher education opportunities for the people in the CNMI.

"Docomo Pacific has been supporting the NMC Foundation for many years now, and we are extremely grateful that the company has provided a sizeable cash donation as well as impressive prizes that we can use for our raffle draws," NMC Foundation vice president Ivan Quichocho said.

The golf tournament will be held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort tomorrow with a shotgun start at 7am and will follow a medal play format.

There will be six separate

flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies. The entrance fee is \$95 per player. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.nmcnet.edu, or picked up at the NMC Cashier's Office, Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, or Triple J Motors.

Tournament prizes for first, second and third place for the six flights include cash and roundtrip tickets (Continental Asia & Micronesia). There will also be significant hole-in-one prizes.

For more information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation or to register to play, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 ext. 1050.

GROUPS

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the cemetery in Marpi and that you preserve Marpi as a place of natural beauty and recreation for the people of Saipan. Marpi is where Saipan's sports community goes to train and play," stated in portions of NMIF president Russ Quinn's letter to the governor.

NMIF is the local governing body of triathlon in the CNMI, sending athletes to various off-island competitions like the Pacific Games and Micronesian Games. It also helps organizers of XTERRA Saipan Championships and Tagaman, which bring local and off-island runners and bikers to the northern portion of

the island.

The group has over 200 members, who either trains or have leisure walks and rides in Marpi on both weekends and weekdays every morning and late afternoon. Groups rides in Marpi are also a regular activity for NMIF members.

Quinn added the beauty of Marpi prompted them to draft a website that will declare Saipan "The Mountain Biking Capital of Micronesia" and the group believe through this project, more tourists will be intrigued and visit the island.

"Marpi in a sense is the CNMI's national park. It is a place of serenity, beauty, history, rugged and adventure, and nature where each of us can go to escape work and restore

our spirits. We lost the serenity of Mt. Tapochao when a blinding, flashing light was installed at the peak. We lost the quiet beauty of Tanapag Harbor when CPA installed giant floodlamps at Charlie Dock. We do not have to repeat these mistakes in Marpi," Quinn added in his letter.

MTBC, which has members who are mostly new to mountain biking and doing recreational races, shared NMIF's sentiments.

"Many of our members have taken recent trips to Marpi since the installation of the power poles to the cemetery. There is a very notable negative impact in seeing these power poles that are blatantly out of place. Gone is the sense of sanctu-

ary that Marpi offers when he need to get away from our daily grinds," MTBC president Vince Seman said.

"We do not wish to impede on the government's responsibilities to maintain the public cemetery. However, we only ask that there be a balance to preserve our very limited natural resources," Seman added.

Suzu Kindel, who regularly jogs in Marpi and joins local run and swim races, believes the power poles project will have big impact in the CNMI tourism industry.

"Having a background in tourism, I understand how valuable Marpi is for promoting and sustaining our one and only industry. But what will become of this beautiful park

area if it is developed in a haphazard manner? What will be the impact on our tourism? There needs to be a land use plan to govern development, and the public and the National Park Service must be involved with the preparation of this plan. Development could be acceptable if done properly but the historical and environmental traits of Marpi must be preserved. However, if the power pole project is any indication of what the government can and will do, our number one tourist attraction and our athletes' and residents' favorite area to train and exercise could be destroyed," she said.

"One of my primary reasons

for living on Saipan is the opportunity to run and swim in Marpi while enjoying its beauty and peacefulness. There are few places in the world that offer such a special venue with miles of roads and interesting trails for running and biking, a beach like PauPau for swimming long distances without having to worry about boat traffic, a grotto for diving, and a place where at every turn there is another fabulous vista of a historical landmark or the beautiful ocean. Being out in Marpi is so much more desirable and safe than running or biking down Beach Road with its car fumes and unattractive buildings," Kindel added.

NATIBU

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The CSA season continues tonight at 6:30pm when Bradahs (1-7) squares off against G-Ballers (5-5). At 7:30pm, the women's pairing will have Check-It-Out (1-7) challenging T&C Clan (1-6). Then the men retake the field to close the night with Familia (2-8) facing Your Balls (4-4) at 8:30pm.

Natibu 16, Phay Boyz 9

A good crowd stuck around for the clash of the titans nightcap and it witnessed Natibu take a 7-0 lead after the first three innings.

Ned Norita blasted a two-run shot in the first frame, Jun Saralu hit three-run bomb in the second, and Jerry Guerrero lifted out a two-run homer in the third.

Phat Boyz finally hit the board in the top of the fourth off a pair of solo shots by Jun

Kaipat and Glenn Camacho, but Natibu smacked them back down with five runs in the bottom frame.

B.J. Sablan led off with a solo homer and a hit and two fielder's choices later last batter Jonathan Welson busted a three-run shocker; the other run scored off an error.

Phat Boyz was on the verge of being run-ruled to start the fifth but was saved by a three-run homer by Oscar Sablan, 5-12. Natibu got two runs back in the bottom frame off a pair of doubles by Guerrero and B.J. Sablan.

Phat Boyz tried to posture a comeback with a couple of two-run homers in the top of the sixth, but Natibu got two of them back and held on to secure the win.

Man Amigos 29, X-clusive 2

Man Amigos took an early 6-0 lead in the opening frame. Eric Palacios led off with a homer,

another run scored off an error, and Joey Dela Cruz and Jess Guerrero each hammered two-run blasts later in the inning; X-clusive left two men stranded in the bottom frame.

Man Amigos went ahead, 11-0, in the top of the second off a single by James Fleming, an error, and a three-run shot by Manny Sablan. X-clusives' only spark of offense came from a two-run homer by Gloyd Martin in the bottom frame.

Man Amigos then trudged ahead, 15-0, in the top of the third. They loaded the bases with three hits that set up a three-RBI single by Julian Camacho.

X-clusive came up empty in the bottom frame and Man Amigos poured on 14 runs in the top of the fourth for the early decision.

Red-Eye 13, Gorillaz 7

Gorillaz managed a 3-2 lead after the first inning. Red-Eye broke the ice in the top half off a single

by James Ulloa and a sacrifice fly from Jack Sablan, but Gorillaz took a one-run lead off a double, two hits, and two walks.

Then Red-Eye's Densy Ogarto tied the game with a solo homer in the top of the second and his teammates took the lead, 7-4, in the top of the third off a single by Ulloa and a three-run bomb by Sablan.

Gorillaz managed to get two runs back in the bottom frame off a pair of solo shots by Derek Aughenbaugh and Pat Alepuyo.

Then Red Eye went ahead, 10-5, in the next two innings off a single by Tremayne Cangco in the fifth and a two-run blast by Swain Cangco in the sixth frame.

The count shifted to 12-6 in the sixth inning, as Red-Eye scored two more runs off an error and a base rip by Clyde Sablan, while Gorillaz managed a run from a single by Aughenbaugh. Then both teams traded a run in the final stand.

member of the CNMI Team that went to Palau for the 2010 Micronesian Games and is now helping student-athletes of Oleai Elementary School. Ogunmuro has been involved in NMA programs and tournaments for a few years and was among the pool of athletes considered for last year's CNMI Athletics Team.

TAN HOLDINGS

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lead when it plays bottom-feeder Independents Football Club this Sunday at 12pm.

The two other games this Sunday will feature Division A teams with MP United A facing Paire at 2pm and Korean Football Association on Saipan battling Baek Du San at 4pm. Last night, Paired duelled Inter Godfather's, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

Pending last night's game results, Paire holds a 3-1-1 slate, while Inter Godfather has a 2-2-1 card.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS					Central Division				
AMERICAN LEAGUE					St. Louis	13	11	.542	—
East Division					Cincinnati	13	12	.520	1/2
New York	13	8	.619	—	Milwaukee	12	12	.500	1
Tampa Bay	12	11	.522	2	Pittsburgh	11	13	.458	2
Toronto	11	13	.458	3 1/2	Chicago	10	13	.435	2 1/2
Baltimore	10	12	.455	3 1/2	Houston	9	15	.375	4
Boston	10	13	.435	4	West Division				
Central Division					Colorado	16	7	.696	—
Cleveland	15	8	.652	—	Los Angeles	13	13	.500	4 1/2
Detroit	12	12	.500	3 1/2	San Francisco	11	12	.478	5
Kansas City	12	12	.500	3 1/2	Arizona	10	13	.435	6
Minnesota	9	13	.409	5 1/2	San Diego	9	16	.360	8
Chicago	10	15	.400	6	Yesterday's Games				
West Division					Baltimore 5, Boston 4				
Texas	15	9	.625	—	N.Y. Yankees 3, Chicago White Sox 1				
Los Angeles	14	11	.560	1 1/2	Cleveland 7, Kansas City 2				
Oakland	12	13	.480	3 1/2	Oakland 2, L.A. Angels 1, 10 innings				
Seattle	10	15	.400	5 1/2	Seattle 10, Detroit 1				
NATIONAL LEAGUE					Texas 7, Toronto 6				
East Division					Tampa Bay 8, Minnesota 2				
Philadelphia	16	8	.667	—	L.A. Dodgers 5, Florida 4, 10 innings				
Florida	15	8	.652	1/2	Cincinnati 7, Milwaukee 6, 10 innings				
Atlanta	13	13	.500	4	Colorado at Chicago, ppd., rain				
New York	11	13	.458	5	Atlanta 7, San Diego 0				
Washington	10	13	.435	5 1/2	Philadelphia 8, Arizona 4				
					N.Y. Mets 6, Washington 3				
					Pittsburgh 2, San Francisco 0				
					St. Louis 6, Houston 5				

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 LOCAL

From Page 32

The Kids Athletics Workshop, according to the OAA website, is a program for coaches who have a keen interest in introducing the IAAF Kids Athletics program throughout their country. Each course member

will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to train Kids Athletics facilitators in their own organization and promote and sustain the program within their federation.

The workshop was first introduced in 2009 and only member federations that missed the inaugural course are allowed to attend next month's event. The list

includes American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands, Norfolk Island, Palau, Samoa, and the CNMI. The program is open to either males or females who have a background in working with children, teachers preferably.

Kenty was a former Marianas High School student and

Shell Fielders bank two wins in SML

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



The Shell Fielders jumped to second place in the Saipan Major League standings, following their back-to-back victories at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Fielders finished strong against the Sen. Crisostomo D-9ers, 13-9, last Wednesday and took down the Ol'Aces, 10-4, on April 19 to improve to a 4-1 record, just a game behind St. Michael's Angels (5-1). The D-9ers dropped to third place in the six-team field with their 4-2 card, while the Ol'Aces fell to a 2-4 slate.

Fielders 13, D-9ers 9

The Fielders took an early 4-0 lead in the opening frame. The first three runs scored off wild pitches, as Anthony Tenorio made his way around off a walk and stole home.

The Fielders then went 1-2-3 for the next two innings, while D-9ers left three men stranded.

Finally, the D-9ers managed a run in the top of the fourth off an error, but the Fielders answered with two runs and went ahead, 6-1, in the bottom frame. Ryan Ada smashed an RBI single and scored later off an error.

After two quiet frames, both teams traded a run in the seventh inning. D-9ers' Chris Camacho ripped an RBI base hit and Fielders' Juan Maratita led off the bottom half with a solo home.

Fielders' closer Elton Santos came to the mound for Ionis Rasa to start the eighth and the D-9ers



The Shell Fielders' Juan Maratita swings during their SML game against the Sen. Crisostomo D-9ers at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

responded with four runs. However, the Fielders rose up in the bottom frame and pulled ahead, 13-6, off a two-RBI triple by John Reyes, a triple by Maratita, and three errors.

D-9ers muster three runs in their final stand, but Santos held strong to secure the save.

Winning pitcher Rasa allowed one earned run in seven innings off eight hits and three walks with eight strikeouts.

Maratita batted 4-for-5 and was a double away from the cycle for one RBI and three runs.

Fielders 10, Aces 4

The Ol'Aces struck first in the

opening frame off an RBI single by Nunu Kapileo.

This game was a pitching duel between Fielders' Elton Santos and Aces' Jacob Babauta, but the Fielders' finally answered and took the lead, 3-1, in the bottom of the fifth off an RBI base-knock by Cadez Tenorio, a sacrifice fly by Shane Mendiola, and an error.

Ol'Aces' Oliver Secharmidal led off the sixth with a hit and stole home to get a run back, but the Fielders jumped in front, 7-2, in the bottom frame off an error, a single by Mendiola, a passed ball, and a wild pitch.

The Ol'Aces only managed a

run to start the seventh and the Fielders' added three runs to their lead in the bottom frame off five hits.

Both teams drew blanks in the eighth and the Ol'Aces only mustered one run in their final stand.

Winning pitcher Santos went the distance and gave up two earned runs off seven hits and four walks with 16 strikeouts. Mendiola batted 2-for-4 with a run and brought home leadoff man Tenorio three times in the game.

SML action continues at the "Tan Ko" field tonight at 6:30pm when the Ol'Aces take on the Angels. On Tuesday, the D-9ers face off with the Masters (1-4). The remaining schedule will be Fielders against Angels on Thursday and Brewers (2-3) versus Aces on May 11.

Best Choice grabs 8-ball league lead

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Best Choice dominated former Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League Obyan division leader Fotten Palau of USSP Peleliu Club, 6-1, in a home match last Tuesday to move into first place.

Bets Choice now has a 24-34 record to lead the six-team field Obyan division.

In the Agingan division, IT&E Voyagers ran through Shark Attack, 5-2, on the road at Wild Bill's Bar & Grill and improved its record to 45-18 for a three-game lead over sister-team Home Boyz. Shark Attack is now tied with Fotten Palau in the Obyan standings with their similar records of 26-37. Obyan's VFW-Xream (25-38) lost to the Home Boys, 2-5, on the road, but is still close in third place.

Utopia Sports Bar's Docomo Hustlers and Buddies' Bar & Grill's Incredibles with their

41-22 and 40-23 slates, respectively, are still very much in the four-horse Agingan race.

In other results, USSP Turtles (22-41) upset the Docomo Hustlers, 4-3, at home and D'Pirates' Pirates (19-44) stunned the Incredibles, 4-3, on the road.

Agingan notables include one-time 8-ball sinkers Home Boyz's Mario Diola and IT&E Voyagers' Jojo Talibong, while Talibong, IT&E Incredibles' Chester Hamoy, IT&E Voyagers' Rolly Villanueva, Incredibles' Marc Butac, IT&E Voyagers' Rey Pinangay, and Docomo Hustlers' Jerry Soriano have all each ran the rack three times this season.

Obyan notables include one-time 8-ball sinkers Nong Detdon of Shark Attack and X-Tream's George Lizardo along with one-time rack runners Tero Takai of Best Choice, X-Tream's Joey Agulto, Fotten Palau's John Mongami, Fotten Palau's Arnel Orbita, Turtles' Patrick Cepeda, and X-tream players Chester Cuento and Bobby Lozano.



Members of the Obyan division Turtles (22-41) pose for a photo after an upset win over Agingan division's Docomo Hustlers (41-22) during their game in the 8-ball league.

Fil-Taga, SGA Ryder Cup returns at Laolao

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



After a five-year absence, Saipan Golfers Association and Fil-Taga Golfers Association will play their own version of the Ryder Cup on May 7 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The Ryder Cup is a biennial golf competition between teams from Europe and the United States and the two local golf groups on Saipan adopted the famous tournament in 2005 with SGA hoisting the inaugural Cup. SGA earned 874 points in the first day of the tournament five years ago and capped their win with 2,154 points in the second day for a total of 3,028 points. Fil-Taga players combined for 902 and 2,274 points in the first and second day, respectively, for a total of 3,176. Each point was equivalent to each stroke a player took on the course. The association with the least number of strokes was declared the winner.

This year, the format will be match play with only the best



Fil-Taga's Rene Batallones watches the ball rolls to the cup during the club's season-ending tournament in January at Coral Ocean Point. Fil-Taga and SGA will have a Ryder Cup-style tournament on May 7 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

12 scores per each club to be counted to determine the winning group. Also, instead of playing for two-days, the two-round competition is squeezed

in one day. The first round will be played on the east course, starting at 8:30am, while participants will move to the west course for the second round, which will begin at 1pm.

"SGA has about 30 members and we have 48 with about 30 active. So, we requested to have a match play format instead of best ball and we will count only the 12 best scores from each club," Fil-Taga's Teddy Malaran said.

A best ball is stroke play with the total score added up at the end of the round. A match play is a scoring system in which a player, or team, earns a point for each hole in which they have bested their foes.

Awards ceremony for this year's SGA, Fil-Taga Ryder Cup will be held on May 14 at Saipan Food Talk (formerly Miggy's), from 6pm to 10pm.

Meanwhile, Fil-Taga will also use the tournament for its May Ace event. Then on June 12, Fil-Taga will have its annual PH Independence Day Open Golf Classic at Coral Ocean Point. Check-in time is at 10:30am, while tee-off is at 11:30am.

Registration deadline for Escape from Managaha today



Swimmers interested in participating in the 2011 Escape from Managaha have only until today to register.

Entry forms and the \$20 registration fee can be dropped by at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. Filled-out entry forms and checks can also be dropped at Expressions at Lower Base.

The 2011 Escape from Managaha will take place on May 7 and participants are advised to be at the Smiley Cove by 5:30am. The race will cover a distance of 2.4 kilometers with swimmers finishing the event at Micro Beach. Wet suits, fins, and buoys are allowed, but swimmers must be able to make it through the channel by 9am.

Last year's Escape from Managaha lured 27 swimmers with siblings Andrew and Grace Kimball of Saipan Swim Club



Victoria Chentsova, left, and Andres Buitrago, move out of the water at Micro Beach after completing last year's Escape from Managaha.

ruling the men's and women's divisions of the race. Andrew completed the race in the 38 minutes and 25 seconds, while Grace posted the third best time at 40:48. Colin Thompson was second overall with his 40:40. The Kimballs and other SSC

members will be joining this year's Escape from Managaha to prepare for a tournament in Guam next month.

The race will start at 6:30am. For more information, contact coach@saipanswimclub.com. (PR)



Shell Fielders
bank two wins
in SML

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Spurs avoid
elimination
with OT win

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32 FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Groups join campaign vs Marpi poles



An off-island biker passes by the Last Command Post in Marpi during the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two sports associations have joined the growing campaign against the installation of power poles in Marpi.

The Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation (also known as Saipan Adventure Sports Club) and Mt. Tapochao Bike Club both appealed to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to stop the installation



project in their letters dated on April 27 and 25, respectively.

"The Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation asks that you consider the installation of power poles to

See GROUPS on Page 30

Natibu lone unbeaten team in Chamolinian softball



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

A big crowd watches Natibu's Jonathan Welson hits a clutch three-run homer during the fourth inning of their game against Phat Boyz in the Chamolinian softball league last Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Natibu prevailed in the battle of undefeated teams in the men's division of the Chamolinian Softball Association-2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League after downing Phat Boyz, 16-9, last Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Natibu extended its undefeated streak to 13 and issued Phat Boyz its first loss in nine games.

In other results, Man-Amigos (7-2) routed Island Apparel-X-clusive (4-6), 29-2, and Red-Eye (4-8) upset Gorillaz (3-6), 13-7.

See NATIBU on Page 30

2 local coaches to attend Kids Athletics workshop

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Northern Marianas Athletics is sending two delegates to the Oceania Athletics Association's IAAF Kids Athletics Workshop in Nadi, Fiji next month.

Selected to attend the seminar that will run from May 2 to 8 were Clayton Kenty and Orrin Ogunoro. The two CNMI delegates will leave Saipan this weekend and will return to the island on May 10.

"We are sending these two young coaches to Fiji to undergo Kids Athletics seminar. With some of our coaches, like Ron Olopai, moving up to help head coach Elias Rangamar in our program for our national athletes, we need fresh legs to teach our kids the basic of the sport. They are both active in their respective elementary schools," NMA official and Oceania Athletics Association Council member Robin Sapong said.

See 2 LOCAL on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Clayton Kenty, seen here training for the hurdles, is one of the two local coaches who will attend next month's Kids Athletics Workshop in Nadi, Fiji.

Tan Holdings tops Shirley's in men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Tan Holdings Football Club notched its fourth win in six games after a 4-1 triumph over Shirley's Football Club during their Division B game in the NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League last Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Shirley's FC dropped the match despite drawing first blood in the lone game Tuesday night. 1-0. Fradel Sedillo gave Shirley's the advantage after scoring in the sixth minute of the opening frame.

Then Delbert Greenman tied the game, 1-1, off his goal in

the 41st minute and two minutes later, Halim Abdul scored, giving Tan Holdings a 2-1 half-time lead. Tan Holdings never looked back from thereon, adding two more goals in the second half. Semisi Paongo made it to the scoreboard in the 55th minute, while Greenman had his second goal in the 77th.

With the win, Tan Holdings improved to a 4-0-2 win-draw-loss record and moved up to second place with its 12 points. Shirley's FC has yet to win a match in six assignments.

SKY FC and Matansa currently share the lead in Division B with their similar 4-1 slates, while MP United B holds a 3-1-2 card for third place.

Sky FC will go for the solo

See TAN HOLDINGS on Page 30



EMSC
Emergency Medical
Services for Children

EMS Week May 15-21, 2011 • EMSC Day May 18, 2011
Firehouse Open House, May 21, 2011 — 9am - 2pm
Bike Rodeo, May 21, 2011 — 8am - 2pm



Everyday Heroes